BUSINESS / B1

Peso perks up to 2-month high; 55.78 to $1

MOTORING / B2-1

Car manufacturers keep up noise even with escalating oil prices

SPORTS / A27

Pujols' 3-run homer keeps Cardinals alive

METRO / A22

Kidnapped boy in traumatic meeting with Roldan in court

Water cannons have cooling effect, PNP tells protesters

LIBRENG PALIGO AT PULMONYA!

By Luige A. del Puerto

SHOULD PROTESTERS start bringing soap and shampoo when they take to the streets?

Police have reserved the right to use water can-

WATER/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Nov. 1 and 4 holidays but not Nov. 2 and 3

TUESDAY, NOV. 1, AND FRIDAY, NOV. 4, ARE public holidays the better to observe the traditional rituals of All Saints. Day, Malacañang declared yesterday.

Earlier, the Palace had announced that Monday, Oct. 31, was a nonworking holiday.

But Wednesday, Nov. 2, and Thursday, Nov. 3, are regular working days, according to Execu-

NOV. 1/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, October 19, 2005 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 313 P18 website: www.inq7.net

It's final: VAT law legal

Int'l survey rates RP's corruption severe

By Doris C. Dumlao

NOT ONLY WAS THE PHILIPPINES ranked among countries with severe corruption problems—its rating in a new survey even sank lower compared to last year's.

On a scale of one to 10—with 10 as the "cleanest"—the Philippines got a score of 2.5 based on the 2005 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released yesterday by global corruption watchdog Transparency International.

The Philippines was thus among 70 countries—comprising nearly half of those included in the TI index—that scored less than 3 on the latest CPI, indicating a "severe" corruption problem.

The country ranked 117th, a sharp fall from its 102nd place in last year's survey.

"Corruption isn't a natural disaster: It is the cold, calculated theft of opportunity from the men, women and children who are least able to

INT'L/ A6

BITTER TASTE OF POVERTY
"Lugaw" (porridge) is distributed to children during a militants' rally at the Quezon Memorial Circle to symbolize the increasing number of hungry Filipinos on World Food Day on Tuesday. "Food is a universally recognized human right," the militants' statement read, "protecting that right must be accorded a higher priority than the pursuit of commercial advantage and free trade." JOAN BONDOC

Tax takes effect on Nov. 1, says DOF

By Armand N. Nocum

MORE THAN TWO months after it froze the 10-percent expanded value-added tax law, the Supreme Court yesterday denied "with finality" all five motions for reconsideration of the administration's centerpiece tax reform program, paving the way for its implementation.

"The law is supposed to take effect immediately. There is no second motion (for reconsideration) to be allowed," said Ismael Khan Jr., head of the Supreme Court Public Information Office, following the issuance of the order at 4:30 p.m.

But Assistant Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said the VAT law, or Republic Act No. 9337, would take effect on Nov. 1 after the Department of Finance shall have published the "revenue regulation."

Implementation of the law will further jack up the prices of petroleum products and electricity and other goods and services at a time when Filipino consumers are struggling to cope with record fuel prices. *(See related story on this page.)*

IT'S FINAL/ A21

Prices of utilities, health care, etc. to soar

By PDI Research

IN 2000, 4.3 MILLION FAMILIES or 26.5 million Filipinos were living below the poverty line. They are going to be hit the hardest by the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT).

Filipinos will have to cut back on their consumption of goods and services because, as economist Solita Monsod said, "The more you consume, the more tax you pay."

- GASOLINE. Unleaded gasoline is expected to rise by P3.03 to P3.14 a liter. Should oil companies increase their rates again before the start of the VAT imposition—a most likely scenario—another 50 centavos per liter will be added to the increase.

As a result, unleaded gasoline will retail between P38.28 to P39.44 a liter, an increase of about 8.8 percent.

Though the VAT is 10 percent, the government has adopted mitigating factors that would cushion its impact like removing the excise tax and tariffs on petroleum products, hence the price increases would not equal 10 percent.

Already, gasoline prices have risen 21 times since the start of the year by about P10.85 a liter.

- DIESEL. Diesel prices will rise from the current P31.40-P33.85 a liter to P32.75-P35.44; kerosene from P32.60-P33.85 a liter to P35.20-P36.575 a liter.
- LPG. It is expected to cost P521 per 11-kg cylinder. The price of LPG, which has gone up

PRICES/ A21

Bro. Mike proposes referendum

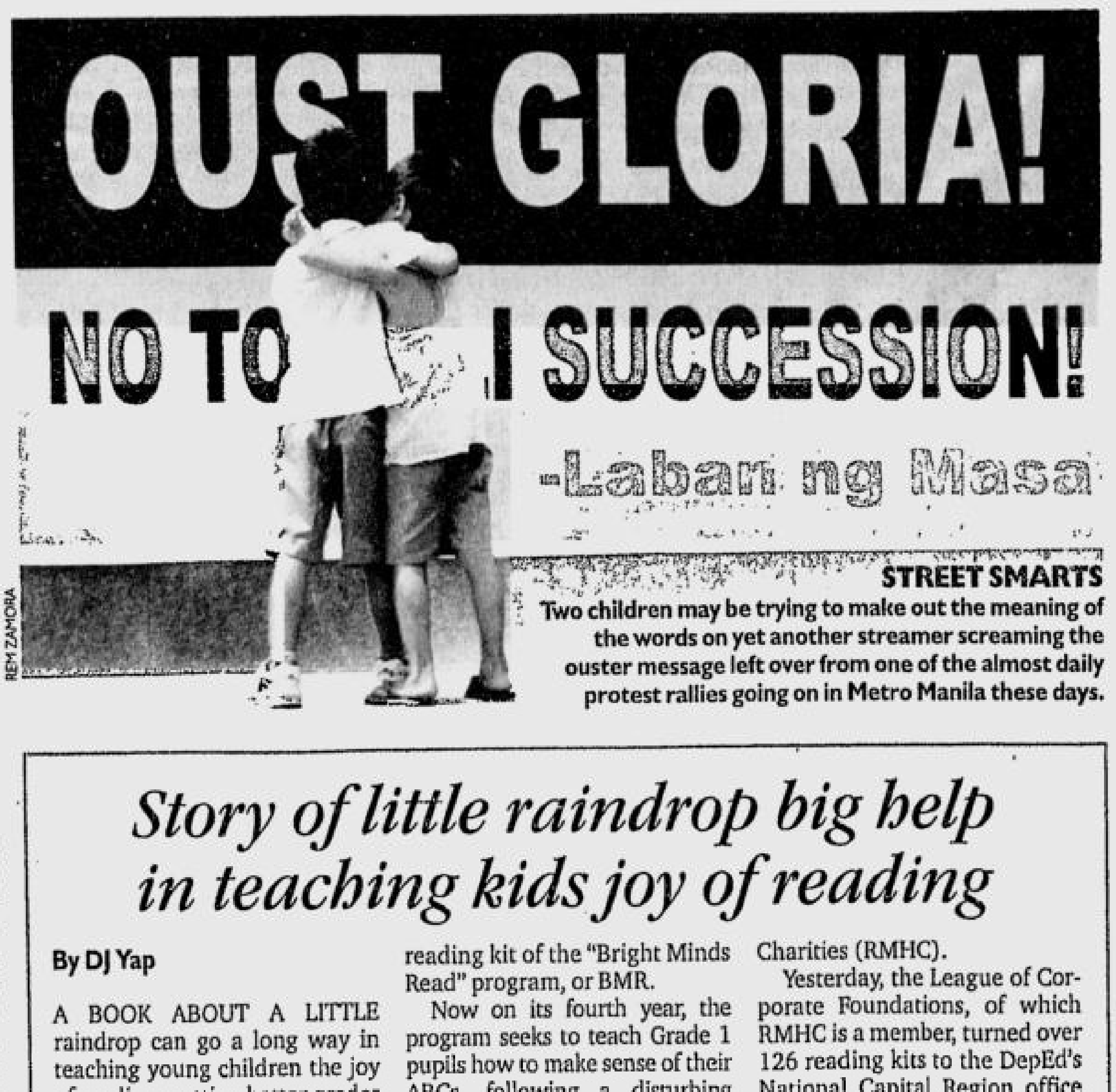
By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's spiritual adviser has a radical proposal to address the political crisis: A referendum in May 2007 to ask the people whether they want her to serve her term up to 2010.

According to El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde, this could be a "workable compromise" with the opposition to resolve the instability that has lingered even after the House of Representatives dismissed the impeachment complaints against the President.

"We can include in the 2007 election [ballot] a question ...

BRO. MIKE/ A8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-Laban ng Masa
REM ZAMORA

STREET SMARTS
Two children may be trying to make out the meaning of the words on yet another streamer screaming the ouster message left over from one of the almost daily protest rallies going on in Metro Manila these days.

Aussie, Asean troops' entry in the works

By Fe Zamora and Michael Lim Ubac

IN A MOVE LIKELY TO PROVOKE a new controversy, the Philippines yesterday said it planned to enter into bilateral accords with Australia and several Southeast Asian nations that would allow their troops to enter the country and train Filipinos in fighting terrorism.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the Philippines was studying a draft accord with Australia and similar talks were underway with Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and other countries—in effect forming a web of agreements that would usher in a new security arrangement in the region.

AUSSIE/ A6

Story of little raindrop big help in teaching kids joy of reading

By DJ Yap

A BOOK ABOUT A LITTLE raindrop can go a long way in teaching young children the joy of reading, getting better grades and having a bright future.

"Little Raindrop" tells the happy tale of a water droplet, his many brothers and sisters, their Mother Cloud, and the endless wonders of the water cycle.

It is one of 32 books in the reading kit of the "Bright Minds Read" program, or BMR.

Now on its fourth year, the program seeks to teach Grade 1 pupils how to make sense of their ABCs, following a disturbing study showing that pupils have fallen behind in their studies simply because they cannot read.

BMR is the result of a partnership between the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC).

Yesterday, the League of Corporate Foundations, of which RMHC is a member, turned over 126 reading kits to the DepEd's National Capital Region office in Quezon City.

The kits, each priced at P11,200, consist of children's books with colorful illustrations and easy to read stories that even adults can relate to.

STORY/ A6

US to deport Jimenez back to RP on Nov. 21

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Margaux C. Ortiz

ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO when he was extradited to the United States, Mark Jimenez warned: "This is just the beginning; I shall return."

Next month, the former Manila congressman, who rocked President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration with charges of corruption in 2002, will make good on that vow.

After serving a sentence in a US federal prison, Jimenez (aka Mario Crespo) is to be deported by the US government on Nov. 21.

The 57-year-old businessman-politician who used his wealth to gain clout in the Philippine political scene has been doing time for tax fraud and making illegal campaign contributions to the US Democratic Party. He was previously detained in a facility in Florida before being transferred to one in Pennsylvania.

The US Department of Homeland Security has issued a notification of Jimenez's deportation, confirmed Ricardo Diaz, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Interpol Division.

Straight from his prison cell, Jimenez will be put on DL flight 7928 in New York on

US TO DEPORT/ A21

JIMENEZ: Homefree by Nov. 22.
PDI PHOTO

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over eastern Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/18/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senate won't let Gonzales go

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

THE COUNTRY'S CHIEF SECURITY ADVISER wants to go on medical leave, but the Senate won't let him go that easily.

The Senate isn't releasing National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales from its custody until he files a formal motion explaining why he should be released, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"On the basis of press reports that Secretary Gonzales would go on medical or indefinite leave and the concomitant speculation that he would be released thereby, the same cannot be acted upon unless he files a formal motion explaining the reasons he should be released," Arroyo said.

Arroyo said he would immediately convene the Senate blue ribbon committee, which he chairs, once such a motion was filed.

"After conferring with the minority leader, Sen. [Aquilino] Nene Pimentel, we have agreed that should such a motion be filed, we would convene the committee and deliberate on the motion with dispatch and concern," Arroyo said in a statement.

Gonzales, who has been confined at the Philippine Heart Center under Senate custody since Sept. 21, had asked Malacañang to let him go on indefinite medical leave.

He had testified on the government contract with the US lobby firm Venable LLP and was cited in contempt by the Senate and ordered detained for evading the senators' questions.

The contract entailed seeking US grants for Philippines projects, including Charter change, and paying Venable some $75,000 a month for its services over a period of one year.

Gonzales was rushed to the hospital after his blood pressure shot up during the Senate committee hearing.

Yesterday, he said, "I am resigned to whatever," when asked how he felt about the senators' decision to keep him in their custody.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday night granted Gonzales an indefinite leave of absence to allow him to attend to his medical problem.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters the President was likely to designate National Security Council Deputy Director General Victor Mayo as acting NSC chief in Gonzales' absence.

"The President continues to have confidence in Secretary Gonzales," Ermita said, brushing aside queries on whether Ms Arroyo intended to replace the national security adviser.

Gonzales said yesterday he had read in the papers that the senators were not likely to lift his detention until he spilled the beans on the contract he signed with Venable.

In a phone interview, he said he continued to hope the Supreme Court would decide soon on his petition for a writ of habeas corpus so he could obtain his freedom.

He said he wanted to attend to his health problem "under normal conditions."

Gonzales said that according to the Swedish hospital that analyzed his angiogram taken at the PHC, he needed heart bypass surgery.

Doctors found he had two blockages, he said, one of which was in the left side of the main artery to his heart.

But Gonzales is also not about to let the senators run roughshod over him.

His camp yesterday filed a complaint before the Commission on Human Rights against Pimentel for calling him a pimp during the Sept. 21 blue ribbon committee hearing on the Venable deal.

Gonzales' political party, the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, and its affiliate, Aksyon Sambayanan, charged Pimentel with "humiliating, embarrassing and bamboozling" the Malacañang official "before the eyes of the world" by describing him as a flawed character.

In the four-page complaint, PDSP and AS, represented by Bernard Austria and Rhoda Avila, said Pimentel violated Article 1 of the Constitution which states that the "State values the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights."

They said Pimentel had opened Gonzales up to public ridicule, which was not only an unparliamentary act but a transgression of his right to human dignity.

They said what Pimentel did could be considered an assault on the Presidency, since Gonzales, being a Cabinet member, was the alter-ego of President Arroyo.

At a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, PDSP spokesperson Jose Ricafrente said they would also sue Pimentel for libel. *With DJ Yap*

Hike in budget for teacher training sought

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) wants to double its budget for the training of public school teachers around the country from P500 million in 2006 to P1 billion in the succeeding years.

DepEd Officer-in-Charge Fe Hidalgo told reporters they have submitted a proposal which is now pending in Congress to allot P581 million for teachers' training for 2006.

But Hidalgo said the amount is not enough. "That's never enough to train all the teachers. When we say training, this is upgrading of content, upgrading of skills and strategies in teaching, upgrading of trends in teaching processes and mastery of skills in teaching. This also includes training materials. It is useless to train if there are no training materials for the teachers to use," she explained.

Hidalgo admitted it would be difficult to train all of the almost half a million public school teachers. Instead, they would focus on teachers who are teaching subjects which they did not major in college. Priority is given to teachers in the core subjects like English, Science and Mathematics.

For 2005, Hidalgo said the DepEd spent only P81 million for teacher's training.

Most public school teachers reportedly are teaching subjects which were not their majors in college.

DepEd Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz, who is on leave, explained that DepEd would need P1 billion every year to train at least 10 percent of the 476,000 public school teachers.

The amount, he explained, could send around 50,000 teachers to summer classes every year.

Luz estimated that each teacher would need P15,000 for each summer for tuition, cost of living, transportation, accommodation and other expenses.

To qualify for a minor degree in the subject they are teaching, a teacher needs 18 units. A minor degree is assumed to make the teacher qualified to teach that subject.

Luz, however, said that at the rate they are going, it would take 10 years to train all public school teachers in the country at least once.

He noted that the private sector offers training for its employees every five years.

He added that the DepEd has tie-ups with four universities in the regions to accommodate teachers who want to upgrade their skills. These schools are St. Louis University in Baguio City, the West Visayas State University in Iloilo, the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, and Ateneo de Davao.

Hidalgo added that they would also focus on teachers in Grades 1 and 2. "We also need to do intensive training for teachers in Grades 1 and 2 and how to teach reading effectively because our program is to make every child a reader by Grade 3. We really badly need that."

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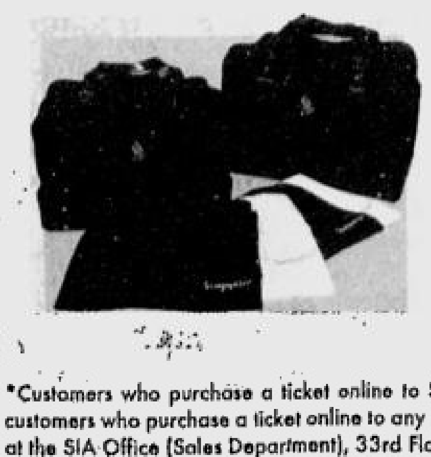

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5543, Series of 2005.

AFP: No private army for President

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL never allow the creation of a private army to protect her against a coup as the Armed Forces is ready to protect her against any threat, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

"No President would ever set up a private army to fight groups threatening the government with violence. The AFP will follow all legal orders from our President," said Col. Tristan Kison in Filipino.

Kison also categorically denied reports that the President's civilian allies had brought in a big shipment of arms, as opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon claimed over the weekend.

He denied the reports about the arms landing as well as claims that the firearms were meant for a "private army" that would be Ms Arroyo's counter-coup force in the event of a military attempt to oust her.

"There's no truth to that," he said.

Citing his own sources, Biazon said that foreign ships have been unloading shipments of AK-47, Armalites and carbine versions of the AK-47 firearms off the coast of Northern Luzon, allegedly for the use of civilian groups supporting Ms Arroyo.

Biazon, chair of the committee on national defense, said the first shipment arrived in May. He said the firearms cost from P18,000 to P28,000 each.

Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief, said he had alerted the military about the arms shipment more than a week ago, following the publication in the INQUIRER of a report by former US charge d'affaires Joseph Mussomeli that a civilian group was ready to protect Ms Arroyo from a coup attempt by an "unreliable military."

Kison said the military did receive reports of an alleged arms landing in July 2004.

"The report was verified by intelligence units but until now they have not found any basis to say that there was an arms landing," he said.

He said military intelligence units have also tried to verify reports about supposed arms landings in Currimao and Pasuquin, two towns in Ilocos Norte. The arms were allegedly coming from Cambodia. *Fe B. Zamora and Luige del Puerto*

But military needs 12 new battalions

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPpines needs 12 battalions more—or 6,000 fresh troops—to beef up its 79 Army battalions currently battling communist insurgents, Muslim secessionists and Abu Sayyaf terrorists, AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said yesterday.

The AFP would also need P325 million to train, arm and equip each battalion, Kison said. Each battalion would have at least 500 soldiers, he said.

Kison said the AFP needed more personnel to "fill the vacuum" created every time a battalion went on retraining.

"We have to address the vacuum that allows the enemies to train, recruit and operate when the troops are on retraining," he said.

According to Kison, the communist New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has declined in membership from a high of 25,000 armed guerrillas in 1987 to 7,500 this year. The NPA/CPP has withdrawn from on-and-off peace talks with the government aimed at finding a political settlement to the 35-year-old insurgency.

He said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which is also in peace talks with the government, had a dwindling membership of 11,000 while the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group now only had 500 followers.

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which signed a peace deal with the government in 1996, now has only about 450 members, Kison said. *Fe B. Zamora*

Too much politics hurts the poor, says De Castro

By Cynthia D. Balana

BREAKING HIS SILENCE ON THE POLITICAL crisis confronting the nation, Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said many poor Filipinos could have better lives today if public officials and other political leaders were not preoccupied with too much politics and fighting each other.

In off-the-cuff remarks during the observance of the 2005 National Week for Overcoming Extreme Poverty at the Rizal Park, De Castro said that as a result of the frequent political bickering, the government's anti-poverty programs have been rendered useless as officials have had to focus instead on uniting a divided citizenry.

"What can the government do in bringing progress to our nation if it uses most of its time and resources in healing wounds caused by too much politics in the country? Our country can never move forward if there are always people who want to bring it down," he said.

"If government officials and opposition leaders—both elected and appointed—will unite, we can solve the problem of urban poverty," added De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

He said much could be achieved toward generating jobs and providing housing for the poor if people rallied behind the government instead of staging rallies and demonstrations in the streets.

De Castro said it would be difficult to solve the needs and concerns of every Filipino without a common effort to alleviate their economic plight.

As HUDCC chair, he said he had been doing his best to address one of the basic needs of poor Filipinos—adequate and secure housing.

"It is also in the present national housing program that unity is best exemplified, thus making it one the most effective and impact-oriented programs of the government to uplift the lives of marginalized Filipinos," he said.

"From so-called 'squatters,' they have now become 'villagers' who can live with dignity," he said.

'GAGGING' MEDIA

Opposition 'overreacting' on EO 454, GMA allies say

By Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

DISPUTING OPPOSITION claims that Executive Order 454 was designed to "gag" radio and television networks, two administration legislators yesterday challenged the opposition to take the issue to the Supreme Court instead of resorting to "disinformation."

The opposition was "overreacting and being irresponsible" in claiming that the EO 454 was intended to curtail press freedom, said Lakas Representatives Monico Puentevella, vice chair of the House committee on communications, and Exequiel Javier, vice chair of the committee on constitutional amendments.

The EO's only intent was to return the supervision of the National Telecommunications Commission to the Department of Transportation and Communications, they said.

"It's a shame when public officials do not do their research exhaustively before using government documents like executive orders signed by President Arroyo to malign her and scare the public," said Puentevella.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero revealed the existence of EO 454 last Monday, and claimed that the EO was meant to give the President "control" over broadcast and telecommunications companies.

The EO transferred the "supervision and control" of the NTC, the state agency that has regulatory jurisdiction over radio and television networks and telecommunications companies, to the DOTC. The NTC was under the control of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology that was created by EO 269 on Jan. 12, 2004.

"Under the Arroyo administration, there was never an incident where the DOTC used its power over [the] NTC to use the commission to control the media. There was never an attempt and there is no reason to do it now or in the future," said Puentevella.

Javier said the opposition's "disinformation" on EO 454 was part of their emergency rule story.

"They want to terrorize the people with media as their latest target. To resolve the issue, the minority should question EO 454 before the Supreme Court. We are confident the Supreme Court will uphold the legality of EO 454 since the directive was meant to streamline the bureaucracy," he said.

Party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said that the "secret" issuance of EO 454 on Aug. 16 tended to confirm fears of a looming crackdown on the media.

Escudero yesterday said he received a personal assurance from Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza that the DOTC did not intend to "review, revise, modify" the decisions of the NTC relating to broadcast and telecommunications companies.

Mendoza and other DOTC officials trooped to the House on Monday as the DOTC's proposed budget was being heard by the House committee on appropriations that night.

No big deal, senators say

SOME SENATORS YESTERDAY VOICED DOUBTS that the transfer of the National Telecommunications Commission to the Department of the Transportation and Communication was part of the administration's plan to control the media.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said that the DOTC Secretary could not intrude into the "performance of quasi-judicial powers" of the NTC if ever the administration pressed ahead with the transfer.

"Personally I have not read the executive order, but if that's the only thing involved—a transfer of the administrative power that will govern the NTC and nothing more—I think it's too much to say that you are controlling media," he told reporters.

"They cannot tell you how to write your stories. They cannot tell the editors how to deal with events or any newsworthy happenings."

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto believed that the Executive Order 454, which provides for the transfer, was an "ordinary" order designed to cut bureaucratic red tape, not to crack the whip on media.

"I think it's an ordinary EO that is administrative in nature that possibly fixes many bureaucratic problems. The NTC and the DOTC are both involved in telecommunications and I suppose they should be coordinating with regard to telecommunication policy," he said. ***TJ Burgonio***

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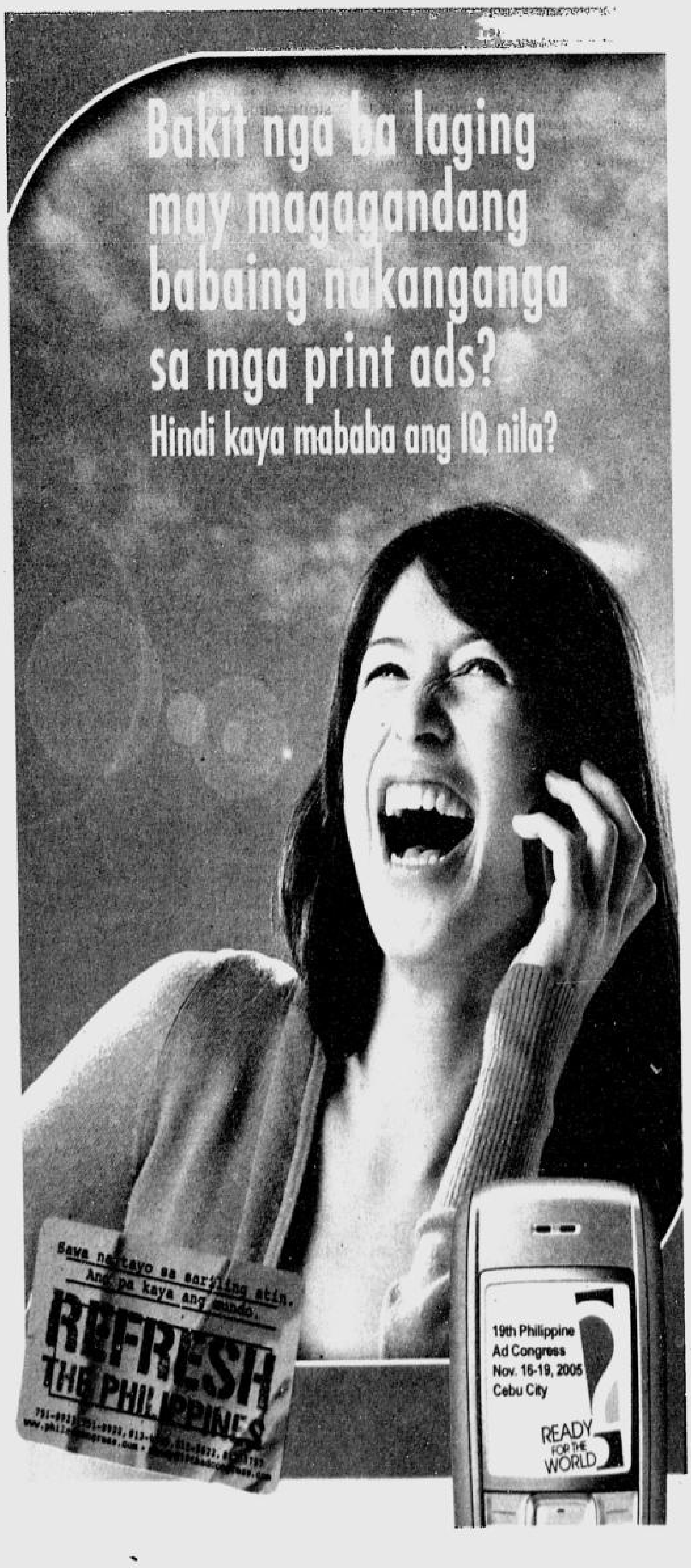
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IBON SURVEY

GMA rating slips further

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT GET a respite from rallies as President Macapagal-Arroyo's net satisfaction rating continued to take a beating and nearly half of Filipinos convinced that she should be removed from office through people power.

The third quarter survey by think tank IBON Foundation showed the President's net satisfaction rating dropped to minus 74.7 percent compared with minus 67.9 percent in the same period last year.

More than half or 881 of the 1,388 respondents representing 64.49 percent said they think the President should be "removed as the country's president" but there was no consensus how.

A huge number of respondents believe allegations that Ms Arroyo had cheated to win last year's elections, or 68.30 percent. Only 7.83 percent think there was no truth to the allegations.

IBON's survey involved 1,366 respondents gathered from all 16 regions according to the region's population size. It was conducted from Sept. 26 to Oct. 7 and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

"The biggest cause of her rating drop is political instability, economic policies, EVAT and her inability to stop the oil price hike," IBON media officer Rea Padilla said in a phone interview.

The latest survey also gauged the respondents' sentiments on the dismissal by Congress of the impeachment complaint against the President, with 72.06 percent believing that Congress' dismissal of the complaint was not justified.

To the question "What is to be done now that the impeachment vote has been defeated?" 42.53 percent said she should be ousted through people power, 29.62 percent said people should demand her resignation, 21.57 said the public should just accept that Ms Arroyo will remain in office, while others had different or no answers.

When asked if they would join mass actions in the streets to remove Ms Arroyo, 43.70 or 597 said they would while another 536 said they would not go to the streets to seek the President's ouster.

The government has received flak for its calibrated preemptive responsive policy, which seeks to control public protests perceived as marks of destabilization attempts against the President.

The people's council being pushed by non-government organizations and other politicians has failed to get the support of the people as only 24.16 percent agree that this was how the President should be replaced.

Almost half of the population or 45.75 percent believe any change in the presidency should still be made through constitutional succession.

Vice President Noli de Castro's unflinching support for Ms Arroyo through the political crisis has been viewed as one of the key factors she remains in Malacañang.

JOBS GALORE
INQUIRER Chair Marixi Prieto (second from left) leads the ceremonial ribbon cutting during Monday's opening of the second leg of the biannual Jobz Employment Expo at the Glorietta Activity Center. She is assisted by Anne Villamor (left), director for strategy and planning of Convergys; Lina Aseneta, president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines; and Lilia Ang, president of the Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors (right). The three-day fair, which ends today, has been a traditional event for the INQUIRER's Job Market, bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers and creating a venue for them to meet to make the hiring process easier and faster. Also attending the affair were INQUIRER officials led by executive vice president David Valdes and senior vice president Rene Reinoso.

Veterans no place for Erap, says defense

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER MANILA CITY PROSECUTOR Jose Flaminiano yesterday said the legal defense of former President Joseph Estrada would be compromised should he be transferred to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, as insisted by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

Flaminiano, a member of Estrada's defense team and a former colonel in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the VMMC was not neutral ground. He refused to elaborate.

He also said the VMMC was not a detention center and the room to be occupied by Estrada would be better given to patients.

A source close to Estrada, however, said the real reason the former President did not want to return to the VMMC was the hospital could be easily bugged by the government.

"If that happens (and it has happened), it would compromise the former President's legal defense strategy," the source said.

Flaminiano said Estrada's Greenhills, San Juan, residence was the best place in which to prepare his legal defense because, aside from being accessible, it was easy to secure.

Flaminiano said Estrada would stay at the Polk Street home only while his lawyers prepared him for his court appearance.

"Maybe about two months," Flaminiano said.

Estrada's lawyers have asked the Sandiganbayan hearing the cases against the former Chief Executive to allow him to leave his detention at his Tanay estate and move to his Greenhills residence because of the inaccessibility of the estate. They said the five-hour round trip between Tanay and Metro Manila was too long.

They also said potential defense witnesses would find it easier to go to Greenhills to consult with the former President and his lawyers than to go to Tanay.

"This is part of due process," defense lawyer Rene Saguisag had said, adding that Estrada should be given every opportunity to prove his innocence.

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Separated RP twins moving to new home

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK – Carl and Clarence Aguirre, the 3-year-old Filipino twins who were joined at the head until US surgeons separated them, will soon leave their hospital room for a home of the family's near New York City.

The boys and their mother, Arlene Aguirre, who brought her sons to New York two years ago and has lived in hospital housing, are about to set up a household in Westchester County, county spokeswoman Victoria Hochman said Monday.

The family's new house is part of the Westhab organization, which provides housing and social services for homeless and low-income families.

It's another milestone for the brothers, whose separation last year is considered a major success. There have been no serious complications. Clarence began walking in August and doctors express confidence that the boys' delayed speech will eventually approach normal.

Details of the family's move were to be announced Tuesday at Blythedale Children's Hospital, where Carl and Clarence have been living and receiving therapy between operations at another hospital.

Aguirre has said that even after moving out, the boys would continue to receive therapy at the hospital. Surgeons have said that the physical, occupational and nutritional therapy the boys received at Blythedale was a key to the success of the separation surgery, which took place in four installments in 2003 and 2004. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 19, 2005
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 6:12-18
Gospel: Luke 12:39-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to this: If the master of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable only for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master sets over his other servants to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is this servant if his master on coming home finds him doing his work. Truly, I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

"But it may be that the steward thinks: 'My Lord delays in coming,' and he begins to abuse the menservants and the servant girls, eating and drinking and getting drunk. Then the master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he doesn't know. He will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

"The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare to do what his master wanted, will be punished with sound blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more.

Commentary

Again Jesus tries to warn us: Pay attention to your life, to what is going on around you and how all this is perceived in God's eye. We are to live 'at the ready,' on our marks, waiting and living passionately because we don't know when the Son of Man, the crucified and risen one will suddenly be among us again. We are to be wise and faithful stewards of the earth, of all that has been given to us—acting with justice, integrity, serving those in need and making sure that the master's accounts and resources are used for those they were meant for—the poor. Is our God going to find us attending to the words of justice, mercy and care in his kingdom or find us wrapped up in our own pursuits and material pleasures. We have been given so much—do we remember whom it belongs to and that all is given in trust to us? Are we sharing the gifts of God with those we are meant to serve? God has trusted us—have we honored that trust?

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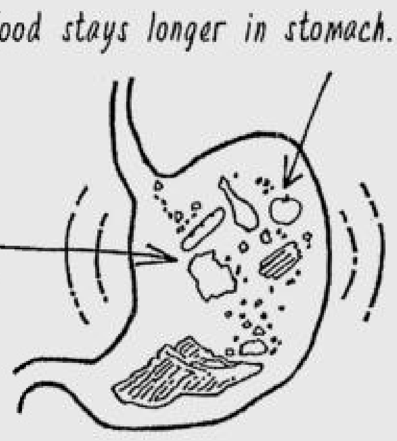
Rx What is DYSPEPSIA?

Dyspepsia is a common stomach condition marked by symptoms of BLOATING, FULLNESS, GAS, BURPING and GENERAL STOMACH DISCOMFORT. Sufferers experience these symptoms over and over again.

Causes of DYSPEPSIA


Food stays longer in stomach.

The stomach is normally in a state of motility, where the stomach propels food down the digestive tract through steady, rhythmic contractions. Dyspepsia is usually caused by dysmotility in which stomach movement becomes uncoordinated and slows down emptying of its contents. This results in symptoms of dyspepsia like bloating, fullness and gas.

Dyspepsia can occur any time, but typically follows meals, especially with spicy and fatty food. Stress and alcohol can also trigger dyspepsia.

Treatment

A class of medication called prokinetics can relieve dyspeptic symptoms by restoring motility-normal movement in the stomach. The most widely used prokinetic in the Philippines is domperidone, available in 10mg tablet form. Domperidone is best taken before meals.

See Your Doctor

If your symptoms persist, consult your doctor. Your doctor can help you manage dyspepsia.

By: **Dr. Sherrie Querubin-De Ocampo**
Head, Motility Council,
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Sa Dyspepsia,

Domperidone
Motilium

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Job prospects in Abu Dhabi rosy

By Jerome Aning

JOB PROSPECTS FOR FILIPINO WORKERS in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates will improve in the next five years, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Sto. Tomas said Abu Dhabi, largest of the seven emirates comprising the UAE, is scrambling to attract investments for its future projects in hotel, construction, energy, tourism, and building of chemical tankers.

The secretary said the labor department was gearing up to take advantage of Abu Dhabi's future projects and ensure that OFWs would benefit from the manpower requirements and be employed for these projects.

She said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Abu Dhabi was ready to coordinate with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration when Abu Dhabi employers would require more OFWs.

Globally, the UAE is one of the top 10 destinations of OFWs. Some 43,970 OFWs were deployed to the UAE in the first semester of 2005, or a growth of almost 25 percent (8,764) compared to 35,206 in the same period in 2004.

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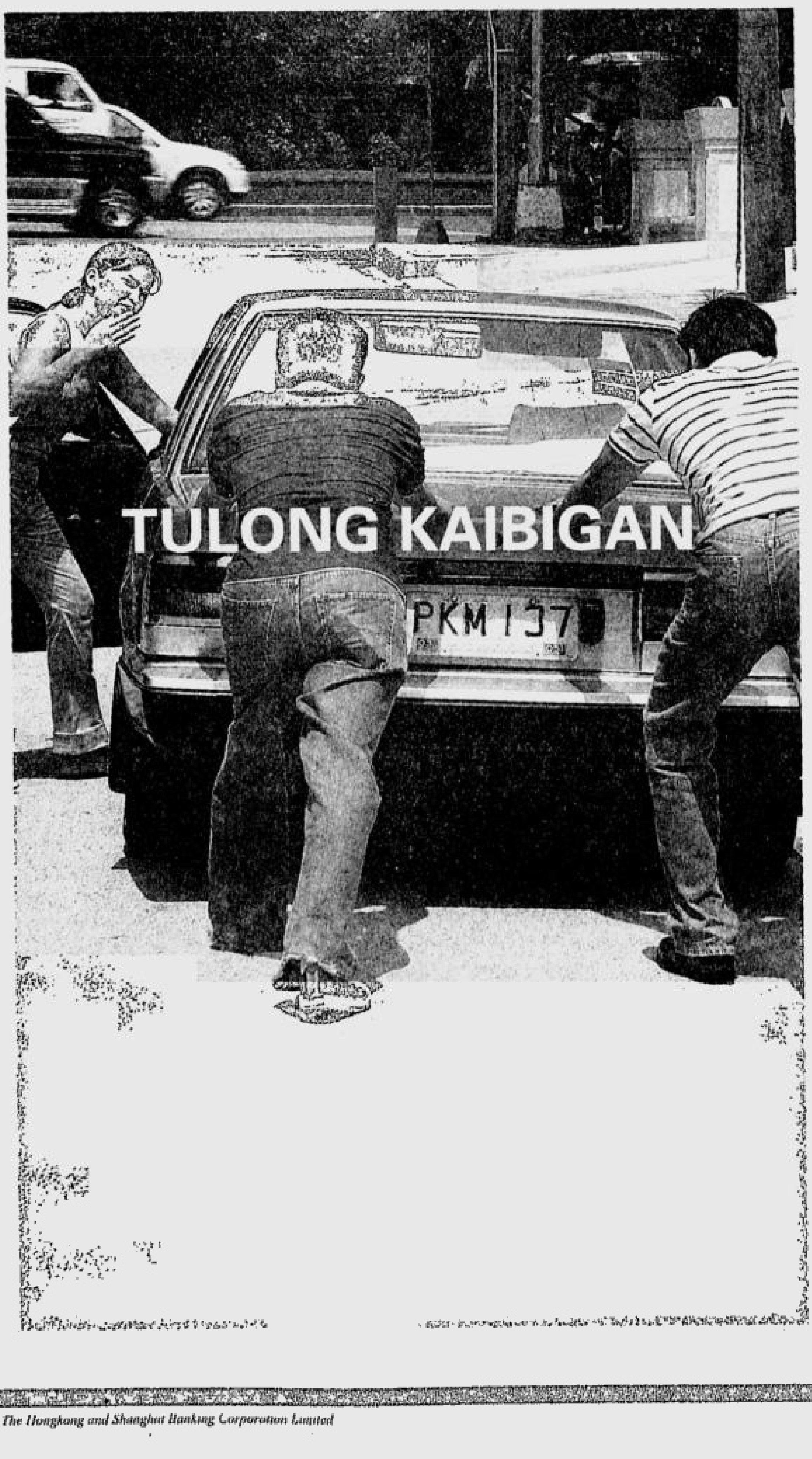

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Int'l survey rates RP's corruption severe

From page A1

protect themselves," said David Nussbaum, TI's chief executive.

"Leaders must go beyond lip service and make good on their promises to provide the commitment and resources to improve governance, transparency and accountability."

RP is 117th among 159

Among the countries included in the index, corruption was perceived as most rampant in Chad, Bangladesh, Turkmenistan, Burma (Myanmar) and Haiti, which scored 1.7-1.8. They were also among the poorest countries in the world.

The Philippines' score deteriorated from last year's 2.6 in the coalition's CPI.

Out of 159 countries rated, the Philippines placed 117th in a tie with Afghanistan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guayana, Libya, Nepal and Uganda.

More than two-thirds of the 159 nations surveyed by Transparency International scored less than five in this year's rating.

The 'cleanest'

On the other hand, the top 10 scorers were Iceland (9.7), Finland and New Zealand (9.6), Denmark (9.5), Singapore (9.4), Sweden (9.2), Switzerland (9.1), Norway (8.9), Australia (8.8) and Austria (8.7).

The United States ranked 17th with a score of 7.6 and Japan shared the 21st ranking with Chile at 7.3.

The CPI is a composite survey, reflecting the perceptions of business people and country analysts, both resident and nonresident. The composite survey also draws on 16 different polls from 10 independent institutions.

But the index provides only a snapshot, with less capacity to offer year-to-year trends.

The 2005 index bears witness to the double burden of poverty and corruption borne by the world's least developed countries, TI said.

Major cause of poverty

"Corruption is a major cause of poverty as well as a barrier to overcoming it," said TI chair Peter Eigen.

"The two scourges feed off each other, locking their populations in a cycle of misery. Corruption must be vigorously addressed if aid is to make a real difference in freeing people from poverty."

Extensive research shows that foreign investment is lower in countries perceived to be corrupt, which further thwarts their chance to prosper, according to TI.

But when countries improve governance and reduce corruption, they reap a "development dividend" that, according to the World Bank Institute, can include improved child mortality rates, higher per capita income and greater literacy.

The TI report noted that 19 of the world's poorest countries had been granted debt service relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, testifying to their economic reform achievements. However, not one of these countries scored above 4 on the CPI, indicating serious to severe levels of corruption.

Greed, mismanagement

The coalition said these countries still faced the grave risk that money freed from debt payments now entering national budgets would be forfeited to greed, waste or mismanagement.

It said the commitment and resources devoted to qualifying for HIPC must also be applied to winning the fight against corruption.

Stamping out corruption and implementing recipient-led reforms are thus seen as critical to making aid more effective, and to realizing the crucial human and economic development goals that have been set by the international community.

An increase in perceived corruption from 2004 to 2005 can be measured in countries such as Costa Rica, Gabon, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay.

Graft in rich countries

Conversely, a number of countries and territories show noteworthy improvements—a decline in perceptions of corruption—over the past year. They include Estonia, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Qatar, Taiwan and Turkey.

The report said wealth was not a prerequisite for successful control of corruption.

A new long-term analysis of the CPI carried out by corruption expert Johann Graf Lambsdorff showed that the perception of corruption had decreased significantly in lower-income countries such as Estonia, Colombia and Bulgaria over the past decade.

In the case of higher-income countries, such as Canada and Ireland, however, there has been a marked increase in the perception of corruption over the past 10 years, showing that even wealthy, high-scoring countries must work to maintain a climate of integrity.

Sharing the burden

Similarly, the responsibility in the fight against corruption does not fall solely on lower-income countries, the report said.

The TI said wealthier countries, apart from facing numerous corruption cases within their own borders, must share the burden by ensuring that their companies were not involved in corrupt practices abroad.

It also said offenders must be prosecuted and barred from public bidding.

Government secrecy

The opportunity for ensuring sustainable progress also lies in the hands of the World Trade Organization, which needs to actively promote transparency and anticorruption in global trade, the coalition stressed.

"The lessons are clear: risk factors such as government secrecy, inappropriate influence of elite groups and distorted political finance apply to both wealthy and poorer countries, and no rich country is immune to the scourge of corruption," the report said.

Aussie, Asean troops' entry in the works

From page A1

The Philippines has such a status-of-forces agreement—or Sofa—only with the United States.

The Sofa, which defines the legal status of foreign troops in the country, has allowed Washington to deploy special forces in Mindanao to train and arm Filipino troops battling militants linked to Osama bin-Laden's al-Qaida network.

"Only through cooperation of all these countries can we have an effective plan against terrorism," Cruz said at a press conference with visiting Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill.

Signing next month

"We intend to negotiate and conclude a status of forces agreement with all the members of the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)," Cruz said.

He said he had already ordered defense attaches to submit a "template agreement" to be reviewed by the Asean members.

Officials said a Sofa with Australia clearing the way for joint training programs on counterterrorism and intelligence sharing might be signed by next month.

The news immediately raised the hackles of militant lawmakers, who warned such an arrangement could make the Philippines vulnerable to foreign intervention.

Threat very real

Australia has provided limited counterterrorism training to Philippine security forces, but Hill said his government wanted to play a greater role.

Although Australia has not been hit by a major terrorist strike, nearly 100 of its nationals have been killed in bombings on Indonesia's resort island of Bali and of its embassy in Jakarta last year.

Western officials have expressed concern over the reported training of al-Qaida-allied militants in Mindanao.

Two of the suspected masterminds behind the recent bombings in Bali, which killed about 20 people, are also believed to have used camps in Mindanao to hide.

"That terrorist threat is a very real one to Australia now," Hill said.

Next is Malaysia

"We feel the possibility of terrorists moving into the southern Philippines. We, therefore, have a real and vested interest in working with the Philippines to overcome that threat," he said.

Cruz said that after the Sofa with Australia, the Philippines next planned to sign a similar accord with Malaysia.

He said such an accord would allow Australian forces to participate in the RP-US Balikatan military exercises next year.

Like the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) that allowed US forces to train in the Philippines, the Sofa will also need to be ratified by the Senate, Cruz said.

"It is important that we have a legal framework to allow them to train with us in the Philippines. The first step is the Sofa and then the next step will be to plan out these exercises," Cruz said.

US welcomes move

The United States welcomed the proposed accord between Australia and the Philippines.

"More cooperation among partners in fighting terrorism is a good thing," US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said.

But party-list Rep. Etta Rosales bristled, saying granting Australia the right to bring in troops and train Filipino soldiers in counterterrorism was "the last thing this country needs."

Rosales, chair of the House committee on human rights, cited three reasons the country should think twice before entering into a Sofa with another country.

One is the constitutional ban on foreign troops operating in the country. Second, Rosales said, the presence of Australian soldiers can be an instant "magnet to attract foreign attacks," and third, accidents can occur resulting from friendly fire.

Rosales said terrorist groups like al-Qaida were not exactly "hostile" to the Philippines but if troops from US allies, such as Australia, were allowed into the country, extremists could train their guns on Filipinos.

RP a war zone

"But more important is the territorial integrity of the country," she said.

Told that Sofa arrangements could include other Asian nations, Rosales said: "Then that could turn us into a battleground, a war zone."

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said he would call for a congressional inquiry once Congress resumes session on Nov. 7.

"We need to investigate this to make it clear if it's a treaty or an executive agreement," said Casiño. He also expressed concern that a Sofa would lead to intervention by Australian troops in the country.

Said Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano: "Under the guise of fighting terror, the Arroyo government continuously tramples on [our] sovereignty."

Story of little raindrop …

From page A1

The wide pages are ideal for a classroom setting, as teachers could read the books aloud to the whole class, organizers said.

Focus on Filipino

Twenty-eight of the books are in Filipino, while only four are in English. The idea is to focus on the national language, said Gerardo Consolacion, elementary education chief of DepEd-NCR.

The books are to be distributed to public elementary schools in cities and towns in Metro Manila, including Taguig, Pateros, Navotas, Malabon and Las Piñas, he said.

BMR uses a four-pronged approach: First, beginners must develop a love for reading by making it a fun activity. Second, the story is used as a springboard for literal comprehension and, later, critical thinking. Third, the story is used to expose children to oral language and grammatical structure. And fourth, the pupils are taught to "decode" or recognize printed symbols.

Four years ago, a DepEd study found that 40 percent of Grade 1 pupils had fallen behind in their studies because they were illiterate. When the BMR program started, the rate of nonreaders dramatically dropped to 4 percent at the end of the school year, organizers said.

Consolacion said using stories as an educational tool was one of the most effective ways of teaching pupils how to read. "Stories help keep pupils attentive to lessons. Even adults like a good story," he said.

"Little Raindrop" by Gloria Villaraza Guzman and illustrated by Fidelito Manto, follows a water droplet in his adventures, hanging on to a tree leaf, falling onto a mountain, a stream, a river, a lake, and a dam, and then, while on a rice field, returning to the bosom of Mother Cloud with his siblings, until they rain down again.

"Mother Cloud was filled with pride for her children helped people, animals and plants," the story ends.

Mother octopus

Another children's book in the kit is "Si Aling Oktopoda at ang Walong Munting Pugita" (Mrs. Oktopoda and Eight Small Octopuses), a story about a neglectful mother octopus who likes to gamble and spend time away from home while her eight children are left to fend for themselves.

The story reaches its climax when one of Oktopoda's children, Walo (Eight), gets lost and is almost eaten by a band of eight barracudas. Seeing this, the mother octopus is stricken with guilt, finally swearing off gambling and other vices.

The story was authored by Rosario Calma and illustrated by Jess Abrera Jr.

RMHC chair George Yang and DepEd Assistant Secretary Teodoro Catindig led the turnover ceremony. Also in attendance were representatives of Mirant Philippines and Petron Foundation, both LCF member donors.

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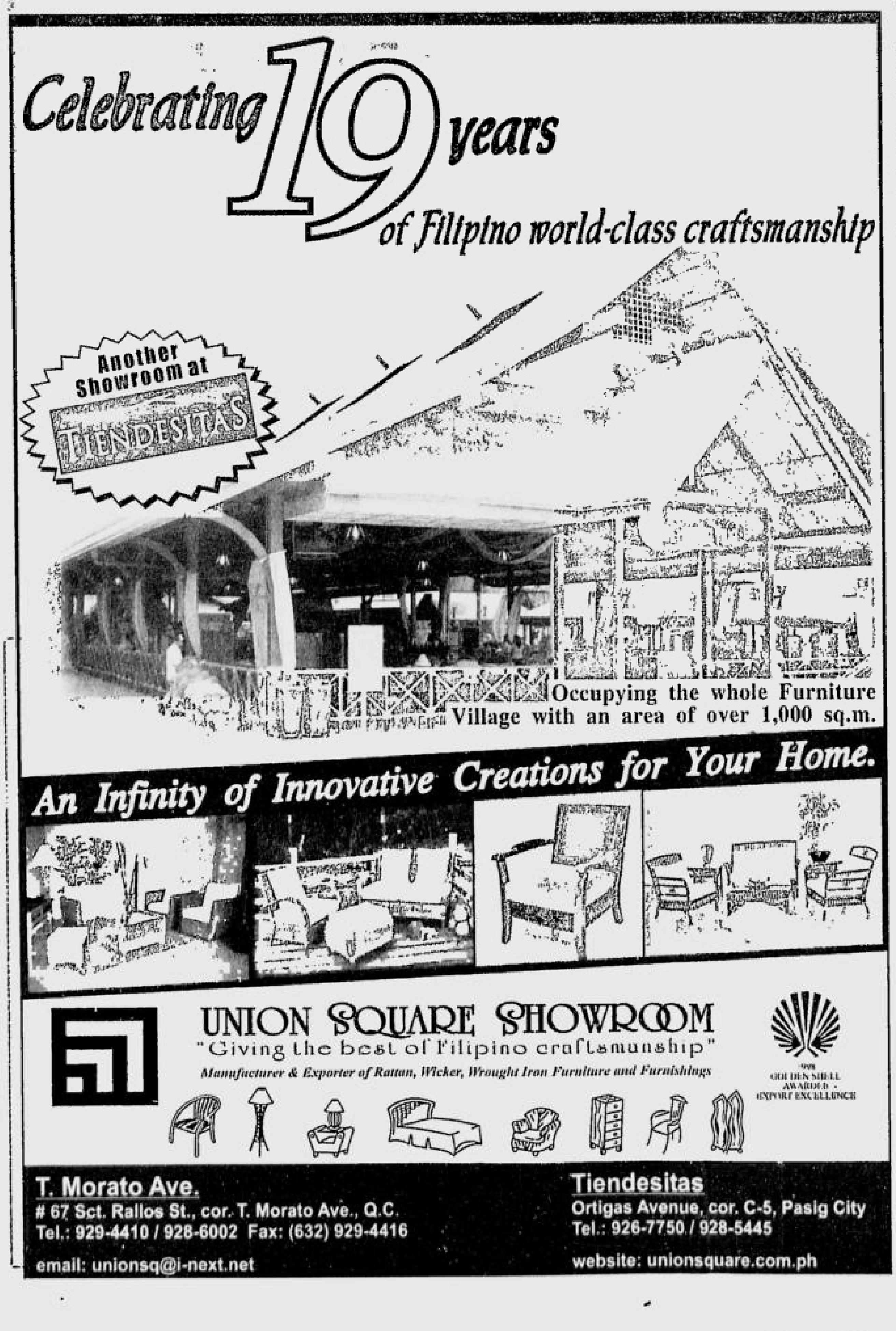
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Congress updates rent control law

By TJ Burgonio

AMID THE SOARING PRICES OF OIL, ELECTRICITY and basic commodities, relief will soon come to 15 million households throughout the country in the form of an updated rent-control law that limits the amount by which landlords can increase home rentals. The law will also benefit some one million students and countless workers living in boarding houses or renting bed spaces.

Members of the bicameral conference committee yesterday approved the final draft of the new rent control law which puts a cap of 10 percent per annum on any increases landlords may impose on tenants renting homes for P10,000 or less a month.

After introducing minor amendments in the language, the committee approved a motion by Rep. Eduardo Zialcita to adopt the Senate version of the bill authored by Sen. Ralph Recto.

The Senate bill retained the old law's 10-percent cap on rent increases but widened the coverage to houses or apartments renting out at P10,000 a month in Metro Manila and other cities, and P5,000 a month in non-urban areas. This means rentals on such residential units may be increased only once a year and by not more than 10 percent.

Old cap

The old cap under the old law covered rents of P7,000 in urban areas and P4,000 elsewhere.

The bill as approved by the bicameral committee will be presented to the plenary of both chambers for ratification. Once signed by the President, the law will take effect for three years until December 2008.

"This basically defends the rights and privileges of a lessor and a lessee. In short, you can't raise the rent of any residential unit by more than 10 percent," Recto, who filed the bill after the old law lapsed in 2004, told reporters during a briefing.

The House version was authored by Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Citing government statistics, Zialcita said that 15 million households, including five million in the Metro Manila, stood to gain from the passage of the Rent Control Act of 2006.

Some one million college students who are renting bed spaces, rooms, boarding houses and dormitories in Manila's "university belt," would directly benefit from it, Rep. Rodolfo Bacani said.

"In the university belt area, we have a lot of dormitories, apartment, dwelling areas which are being occupied right now by students. It will benefit not only thousands, but also millions of residents in ... Metro Manila," he said.

Congress with a heart

Other members of the committee hailed the approval of the new rent control law, saying that it was proof that both chambers could work together to pass a major piece of legislation amid the political wrangling.

"Amidst political turmoil, this rent control law shows and proves both the Lower House and the Senate are working and have in mind the utmost interest of our countrymen," Rep. Robert "Dudut" Jaworski Jr. said.

"This shows that Congress has a heart for the Filipino people. In spite of a lobby from the economists, the House and Senate came together to give some hope for our countrymen who are still renting," he said.

Zubiri explained that the committee stuck with the 10-percent cap because this was the consensus of homeowners as well as renters.

Recto pointed out that the bill allows owners and lessors to collect two months' deposit and one-month advance only.

"Not one cent more. This is much more considerate than the prohibitive three-month deposit and two-month advance currently collected by owner-lessors," he said.

Under bill, the rent shall be paid in advance within the first five days of the lease agreement, unless the contract provides for a later date. The owner of the unit, or the lessor, cannot demand more than one month advance rent.

The bill imposes a fine ranging from P5,000 to P15,000 or imprisonment of one month to six months, or both for violations.

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Protest marchers find temporary haven in Munti

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A WARM WELCOME MAY NOT BE waiting for them on Mendiola (Don Chino Roces) Bridge, if they get there at all, but they have found at least temporary haven in Muntinlupa City.

About 1,000 farmers forming a protest caravan from provinces south of the capital made a stopover in Muntinlupa yesterday afternoon on their way to their final destination—Mendiola—which they plan to reach on Friday.

"We recognize the right to free speech and the right of people to assemble peaceably," Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said as the protesters reached his city.

Despite clear police warnings that the farmers would not be allowed to get anywhere near the bridge leading to Malacañang, city officials permitted the protesters belonging to the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Mangbubukid ng Timog Katagalugan (Kasama-TK) to stay in the city overnight.

Mayor lays down terms

But Fresnedi laid down several conditions: "We cannot allow protesters to deface and vandalize public property or protest marches to turn violent."

The group plans to join other protesters planning to march toward Mendiola for a big rally on Friday, Lester Atun, secretary general of Bagong Alayansang Makabayan (Bayan) Muntinlupa Chapter, told the INQUIRER.

GMA's ouster

The protest will also include a rally outside the offices of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Quezon City where they will air the farmers' grievances, he said.

"They will be raising issues such as land shares and wage increases," said Atun. And, of course, he said, they would call for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The group plans to proceed to St. Andrew's Parish Church in Parañaque City today.

"We have already secured a permit to rally from cities we would be passing through," said Atun.

Around 50 policemen from the local police and roughly 100 from the Southern Police District (SPD) were deployed in key areas yesterday, especially in Tunasan, the boundary of Muntinlupa City and San Pedro, Laguna.

"We have no basis to stop their vehicles. They were just passing by," said SPD Director Wilfredo Garcia.

City police chief Supt. Robert Rongavilla said that even though he had allowed the ralliers entry, it did not mean that the police would be lax in their security measures.

Water cannons have cooling effect, PNP tells protesters

From page A1

nons during demonstrations.

But instead of begrudging their use, rally organizers should see being doused as something that could "cool down" rising tempers, said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

"We think the use of a fire hose has a cooling effect," said Bataoil, chief spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Bataoil said this was obvious on Friday, when police using a water cannon broke up a prayer rally near Mendiola, drenching former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, politicians, left-wing militants and several bishops and priests.

"Immediately after ... there was a cooling effect," said Bataoil. "Another discussion then took place."

Those who got wet viewed the attack differently.

'Cannonization' victim

The 77-year-old Guingona on Monday told the INQUIRER that he suffered a slight wound and swelling on his leg as a result of the "cannonization."

Others hosed down put it this way: A shower is always welcome, but not when it comes from a fire truck with a force so powerful it can pummel a person down to the ground.

Bataoil said the use of water cannons was part of a police initiative to avoid more violent confrontations.

While it is legal to place fire trucks on standby during demonstrations, the police manual says a water cannon or tear gas should be used only as a last resort.

Truncheons have already been set aside, women cops have been put in the front lines as a response to claims that the police had been unduly harsh, he said.

"These are our initiatives, our innovations to address what they said should be a more humane way of handling such a situation," Bataoil said.

Friday rally

This means the police would again use water cannons against the planned mammoth rally on Friday, when anti-Arroyo forces said they would try to "reclaim" Mendiola, a historic site for antigovernment demonstrations.

The last violent police dispersal on the bridge during the administration of President Corazon Aquino in 1987 left 13 farmers dead.

According to Bataoil, it is always possible for saboteurs to infiltrate a demonstration.

"But rest assured that neither the police nor the Armed Forces will start any trouble," he said.

Whether the policy is called calibrated preemptive response or by any other name, the police will simply follow its manual of operations, which provides for a step-by-step process of dispersing a crowd without a rally permit, Bataoil said.

Respect security zone

Maximum tolerance, he explained, does not mean the turning of a blind eye to a blatant disregard of the law. It means the police would exercise restraint and minimal force in enforcing a law, such as the law on public assembly, Bataoil said.

Bataoil called on rally organizers to respect the security zone ringing Malacañang.

"Mendiola is leading toward the seat of power. Everywhere in the world, such a place is secured. You cannot just disregard that," he said.

"So we appeal to our citizens to also respect our security systems."

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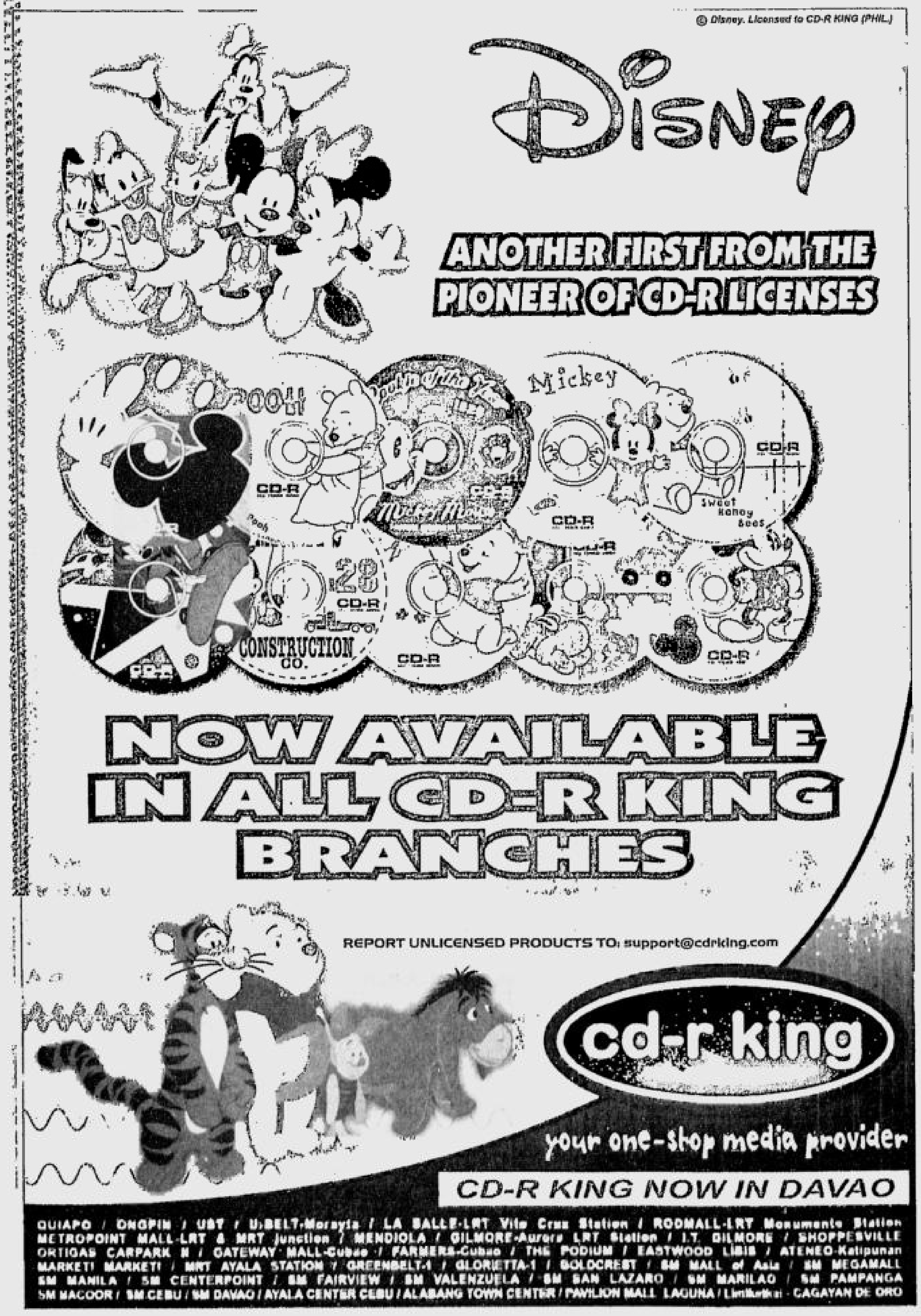

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Bro. Mike proposes referendum

From page A1

asking the people: If [Ms Arroyo] is performing well, do you want her to continue? Or if not, put the issue to the electorate by saying: If you favor her continuity, elect proadministration candidates; if not, vote them out," Velarde told the INQUIRER in an interview on Monday.

With political tensions coming to a boil, Velarde has reportedly teamed up with Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal to beef up efforts to reconcile Ms Arroyo and her enemies.

An influential figure in President Joseph Estrada's administration yesterday said that after failing in his initial effort to have Ms Arroyo and the man she deposed shake hands in front of thousands of El Shaddai members two months ago, Velarde remained optimistic that a "principled cooperation" would be reached by administration and opposition forces.

The highly placed source said Velarde and Vidal were working on setting up a meeting between Ms Arroyo and Estrada, and also with her opponents in Congress, civil society and the Church.

Snap election

The source said that while the approach had changed, the formula for reconciliation remained the same. He said both Velarde and Vidal wanted the President to cut her term short and call for a snap election as the ultimate solution to the political crisis.

Ms Arroyo's chief allies—Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel V. Ramos—have both suggested a shorter term for her.

The source said Velarde had proposed that the President hold the snap election on May 20, 2007, which would mean that she would have stayed a full term (or six years) in Malacañang.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye neither confirmed nor denied involvement in the supposed reconciliation efforts.

"This administration has always been open to a principled cooperation because government cannot work in adversity," Bunye said.

To suggestions that Ms Arroyo's term be cut short, he said: "Any discussion on term limits is premature."

Working strategy

The source said the widening rift between the administration and the opposition had firmed up Velarde's resolve to pursue reconciliation, albeit using another strategy.

"He does not want to go through political leaders this time. He wants to convey the reconciliation message to nonpoliticians, [such as] religious leaders like Cardinal Vidal and businessmen," the source said.

Velarde and Vidal's strategy appears to be working, the source said.

He said the grant of a leave of absence to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales was part of the back-channel efforts to defuse the tension between the Palace and the Senate, who are at a standoff on Gonzales' refusal to tell all about the US lobby firm Venable LLP in a legislative inquiry.

The source said that from initial discussions, Ms Arroyo and De Venecia appeared amenable to a snap election but that they wanted this done after Congress had amended the Constitution to effect a shift to the parliamentary form of government.

But some participants in the supposed discussion wanted it the other way around, the source said.

2-year peace

Velarde told the INQUIRER that putting Ms Arroyo's fate in the electorate's hands through a referendum in 2007 could be the basis for a working arrangement with opposition forces that would allow her to govern in peace for the next two years.

"This could be one of the talking points if they (opposition leaders) will enter the process," said Velarde, leader of the Catholic Church-based charismatic group that claims a five-million membership.

He did not specifically refer to lingering doubts about whether Ms Arroyo had actually won the 2004 election: "Let's look at the root cause of our [political] problem but let us not dwell on that. Let us talk about the solution that will once and for all end the controversy, to which, I believe, only the electorate can really provide the answer. Going to the polls may be the best solution."

Velarde, a spiritual adviser for Ms Arroyo, called it his "formula for principled cooperation."

"Actually, I would not want to use the word 'power-sharing' [but the phrase] 'principled reconciliation'—a working arrangement based on accepted principles that both [the administration and antigovernment forces] would be comfortable [with]," he said.

'Let the people speak'

Velarde said the proposed referendum on the President could fit into the midterm elections in May 2007.

"If she does very well, let the people speak through the polls, and she must finish her term. But if the result of the referendum is the opposite, let her decide for the common good; it's up to her to act accordingly," he said, adding:

"But in turn we must give her a chance to work in a normal condition, and this can only be done if all parties concerned in the conflict agree on certain conditions. And I think the religious leaders, the academe and the business leaders can act as moderators."

He expressed optimism that the opposition would accept his formula: "They are reasonable people. I have spoken to them and all of them are looking for the appropriate solution to the problem."

Velarde declined to name all the opposition figures he had been talking with, but confirmed that they included the detained Estrada, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and even Senate President Franklin Drilon, who had called on Ms Arroyo to step down.

"If the administration will just open up to reason, I think we'll be able to [forge] a workable compromise. The people whom I have talked to, the people who are bent on pulling her down, are also looking for a workable solution. They say their interest is really for the common good," he said.

Unclear signal

But Malacañang has yet to give a positive response to his formula, Velarde said.

"The signal I am receiving is not yet very clear; it's neither yes or no..." he said.

Nevertheless, he said, he had advised Ms Arroyo to explore all avenues for a "principled cooperation" with the opposition.

"I also advised her during the voting [on the impeachment case], and even up to now, to reach out because I still believe things can be worked out for the common good," he said.

Velarde had earlier proposed a 60-40 sharing of Cabinet posts, with the opposition getting more seats.

He assuaged fears, aired principally by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, that an opposition-dominated Cabinet would be dangerous for Ms Arroyo because it could oust her from office.

"That can be supplanted. What we can do is sign a covenant that such things will not happen. The government must continue under the covenant," he said.

No to Cha-cha

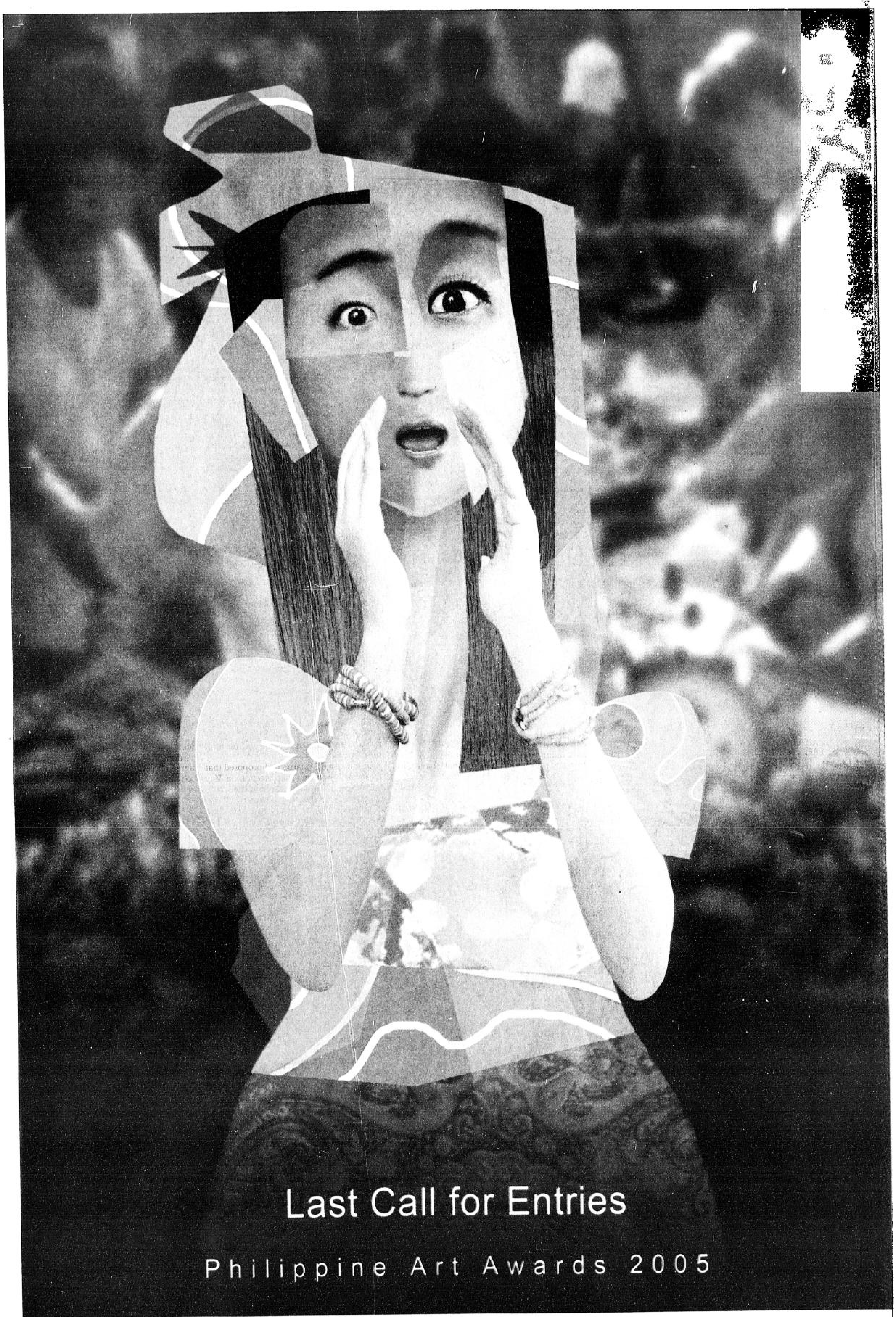
Velarde said he no longer agreed to amending the Constitution now as a means to resolve the political crisis.

"Charter change will take time, and besides it should not be rushed," he said.

He brushed off Ms Arroyo's creation of a consultative commission to recommend specific amendments, saying: "Even then it's being done under duress. This nation is under duress, and definitely we'll not be able to come up with a basic Charter that will answer the problems that we are going through."

In Velarde's opinion, Charter change should be undertaken in 2007.

"Not before, not at this time, because this time, considerations are varied, emotions are high, and the recent result of the impeachment process in the House puts the ability of our legislators—who would eventually probably become members of parliament—to provide check and balance [under a cloud of doubt]," he said.



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Cebu	Southwestern University Museum	Oct 17
Naga	Developmental Institute for Bicolano Artists	Oct 18
Baguio	Baguio Mt. Provinces Museum	Oct 19
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BIRD FLU PANDEMIC

World needs 6 months to prepare – UN

HANOI—THE WORLD NEEDS AT LEAST SIX MORE months to prepare for a possible pandemic caused by bird flu, with poor countries in Asia needing help in financing emergency plans, the United Nations' coordinator for bird and human influenza says.

Dr. David Nabarro said it is important for countries to pay attention to researchers' warnings now so the world can try to prevent a flu pandemic that could skip across borders and oceans, possibly causing "billions, even trillions" of dollars in damage.

As bird flu spreads among poultry stocks, most recently in Turkey and Romania, Nabarro urged calm and preparedness.

He said it's impossible to know what would happen to societies if millions of people suddenly became sick and started dying. There hasn't been a killer bug on that scale since 1918, when the Spanish flu killed up to 50 million people and sickened 20 percent to 40 percent of the world's population.

"We don't have a simple way to reassure people, but at the same time, we also shouldn't make people feel any kind of false comfort," he said in an interview Monday. "We have to find the right blend between some fear and some sense of real preparedness and willingness to respond."

Nabarro said the world needs at least another six months to a year to prepare for a possible flu pandemic. He plans to ask the international community to help finance emergency planning in poor Asian countries that have been hit by the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, which has killed more than 60 people, mostly in Vietnam, and millions of birds since late 2003.

Most human bird flu cases have been traced to contact with poultry, but experts fear the virus could mutate into a form that can be easily spread between people, possibly sparking a global pandemic.

Nabarro said an agreement about the stockpiling and control of antiviral drugs like Tamiflu, produced by Swiss-based Roche Holding AG, also needs to be reached among countries to guarantee that poor countries will have access to medicines. "It will be most unfortunate if the stocks that are available are sequestered and they're inaccessible to the people who might need them because the pandemic has started and they can't get them because their community is poor," he said.

Appointed to the UN position last month, Nabarro is on a fact-finding mission to Thailand, Vietnam and China. He said the world got a small taste of how dramatically an outbreak could affect everyday life during the 2003 SARS outbreak when the virus jumped rapidly from Asia to other parts of the globe via air travel, killing nearly 800 people. *AP*

Bird flu reaches EU for 1st time

LUXEMBOURG—EUROPEAN UNION foreign ministers hold emergency talks Tuesday on the widening bird flu scare, a day after tests in Greece indicated the virus has reached the EU for the first time.

The EU was preparing to ban sales of live birds and poultry from the Aegean Sea region of Chios pending tests on samples taken from turkeys feared infected with the deadly Asian H5N1 strain.

Poultry from Turkey and Romania have already been banned by the EU as bird flu found there was confirmed as H5N1. Tests were also being carried out on birds in Bulgaria and Croatia.

Officials said the foreign ministers are to discuss the international response to the westward spread of bird flu and take stock of EU nations' readiness to deal with a possible pandemic.

The H5N1 strain has swept poultry populations in large swathes of Asia since 2003, jumping to humans and killing at least 61 people—more than 40 of them in Vietnam—and resulting in the deaths of tens of millions of birds.

Its spread westward by migrating wild fowl has intensified fears in Europe that the virus could mutate into one that can be easily transmitted among humans—a development that experts fear could provoke a global epidemic that puts millions of lives at risk.

The EU stepped up biosecurity measures and install early detection systems along the migratory paths of birds to prevent contamination of domestic flocks. But there are concerns that European nations lack stockpiles of vaccines and anti-virals to cope with a major outbreak.

Seeking to calm public fears, the head of the EU's new agency for disease prevention on Monday downplayed the current risk to humans.

"The risk to human health, to public health, at this stage is minimal," Zsuzsanna Jakab said in the EU agency's headquarters in Sweden.

However, she said the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control was drawing up guidelines on how workers who deal with infected animals can protect themselves against infection.

"There is a little more risk for those who have directly worked with the infected animals, so our goal must be to further minimize that risk," Jakab said. *AP*

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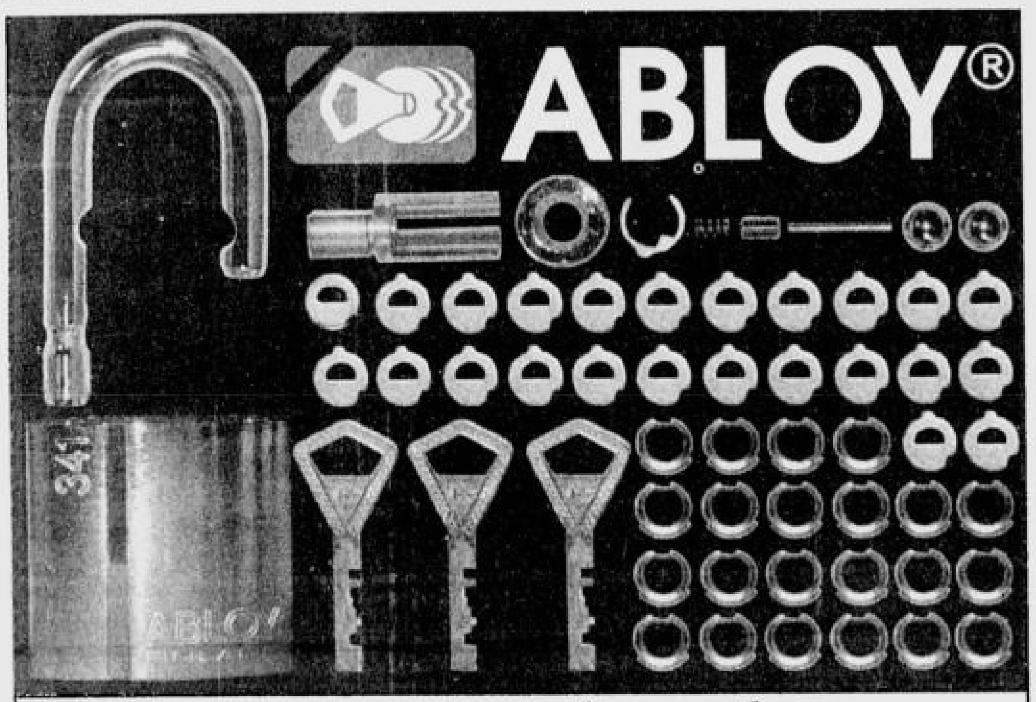

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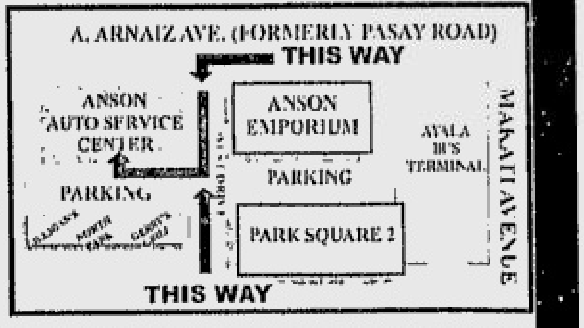

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Quake death toll seen rising

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—Pakistani and US military helicopters delivered aid at a brisk pace to the earthquake-stricken region of Kashmir on Tuesday, as relief workers rushed to set up field hospitals to treat thousands of stranded, injured people who have yet to receive any care.

Choppers landed under sunny skies in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan's portion of the divided Kashmir region, bringing tents and other supplies. Heavy rains on Sunday grounded many relief flights.

Authorities warned that exposure and infections could drive the death toll up from 54,000 as the harsh Himalayan winter loomed. Landslides caused by the 7.6-magnitude earthquake on Oct. 8 cut off many roads, and they could take weeks to clear.

Maj. Farooq Nasir, an army spokesperson, said smaller helicopters would take relief goods brought by big choppers to forward bases in the Neelum and Jhelum valleys on to remote mountain villages.

The United Nations said more than 80 helicopters were flying, and that the world body was planning to send up to 150,000 tents for the homeless, in addition to about 30,000 already distributed.

It said field hospitals with operating theaters were being set up, improving the survival chances for those requiring urgent surgery, but that the large numbers of patients was still "overwhelming."

Most of the deaths were in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, while 1,360 people died in the Indian-held part of the divided region. Conflict in Indian Kashmir continued Tuesday, with suspected Islamic militants killing the state's education minister during a raid on a high-security neighborhood that also left at least three others dead.

Soldiers were exchanging fire with militants holed up at the home of the minister, Ghulam Nabi Lone, police said.

The attack came despite an order from the United Jihad Council, an umbrella organization of militant groups, to suspend attacks after the quake.

India has provided some aid to Pakistan, but turned down a Pakistani suggestion that it send military helicopters—without crews—to help with relief work. Pakistan, which has fought two of its three wars with India over Kashmir, said it could not have the Indian military involved directly in relief efforts.

Aftershocks continued shaking the region, though no further damage was reported, Pakistan's seismological center in Peshawar said Tuesday. There have been more than 700 aftershocks since the quake.

Some 80,000 people were injured in the quake. The United Nations has estimated 3.3 million were left without homes and need food and shelter ahead of the approaching winter, with snow already falling in some affected areas.

Maj. Gen. Farooq Ahmed Khan, Pakistan's top relief official, said 33,000 tents and 130,000 blankets have been distributed to quake survivors. He said 260,000 tents and two million blankets were needed.

Eighty Pakistani soldiers were flown by helicopter into the Neelum Valley, about 25 km northeast of Muzaffarabad, to carry emergency rations and other relief supplies on foot to those in need, the army said.

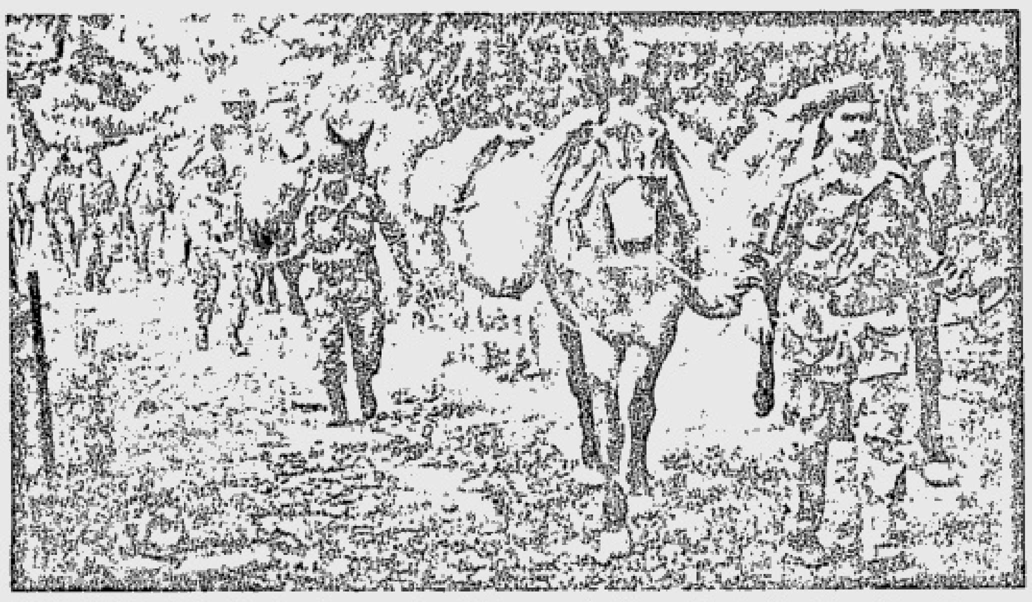
Soldiers also drove mule teams with relief supplies to some of the region's steep-sided villages, crossing people with bundles on their shoulders carefully walking down to lower elevations.

Patients with infected wounds and gangrene languished in remote areas, Red Cross official Sebastian Nowak said.

In Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, authorities said the death toll from a collapsed apartment block—the city's only building destroyed in the quake—rose to 62 as more bodies were found. Nineteen other people were missing.

The UN International Labor Organization warned that more than 1.1 million jobs may have been lost as a result of the earthquake in Pakistan, adding that employment programs were urgently needed to lift millions of people out of poverty deepened by the disaster.

There were some signs of normality returning to Muzaffarabad on Tuesday, amid the devastation. Some shops reopened for business, and a military-run telecommunications company set up camps where residents can make telephone calls or send e-mails and faxes, free of charge. *AP*



PAKISTANI soldiers lead mules carrying aid for people affected by the Oct. 8 earthquake, as they approach the Pakistani Kashmiri village of Bisuti. AP

Troops use mules to send aid to quake victims in Pakistan

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—TROOPS WERE cutting mule paths through landslides on Tuesday to get aid to tens of thousands of villagers in two Kashmir valleys cut off since an earthquake rocked northern Pakistan 10 days ago.

Helicopters, back in the air after weekend rains grounded the only means of getting aid deep into the mountains quickly, were delivering some aid and bringing back people who had laid injured since their world was shattered.

But helicopters cannot reach thousands of people in some remote, narrow valleys, forcing many to trek for many hours, even days, to find help.

Some of the most desperate areas are in Pakistan Kashmir's Neelum and Jhelum valleys which converge on Muzaffarabad, the regional capital and center of a rapidly growing relief operation.

But the bridges into the valleys are shattered and the roads up them buckled or swept away.

Lt. Col. Rana Sajjad, a military spokesperson in Muzaffarabad, said army engineers had managed to clear and rebuild only 2 km of the road into the Neelum valley.

After another chilly night, soldiers were cutting trails across the landslides to get heavily laden mules up to the villages where nobody knows just how many people need help after the quake which killed at least 41,000 in Pakistan and injured 67,000.

"There are no roads as such existing on the ground. Where it is difficult, they are establishing a mule track," Sajjad said.

British doctor Sean Keogh made a three-day trek up the Neelum valley and recounted seeing up to 2,000 people in urgent need of treatment, many with injuries in danger of becoming septic. *Reuters*

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Merkel names several rivals to her Cabinet

BERLIN—GERMAN CHANCELLOR-designate Angela Merkel named several leading conservative rivals to join her cabinet on Monday as power-sharing talks expected to last several weeks began with the Social Democrats (SPD).

As coalition negotiations between Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the SPD got under way, her conservatives named respected CDU veteran Wolfgang Schaeuble to head the Interior Ministry, a position he also held under former Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Schaeuble, 63, whose relations with Merkel grew strained when she helped oust him as CDU leader in 2000 amid a party funding scandal, is joined in the cabinet by Edmund Stoiber and Horst Seehofer, top figures in the CDU's sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

Both Stoiber, 64, who is slated to become economy minister, and Seehofer, 56, who was named agriculture and consumer protection minister, have a history of clashes with Merkel.

Seehofer resigned abruptly from his post as deputy leader of the joint CDU/CSU parliamentary group one year ago after a battle with Merkel over health reform.

In recent days she tried to get another CSU politician, Michael Glos, named as defense minister to prevent Seehofer's appointment, but CSU chief Stoiber blocked that move.

Merkel has a history of sidelining party rivals and that has left her with few experienced conservative allies for top posts.

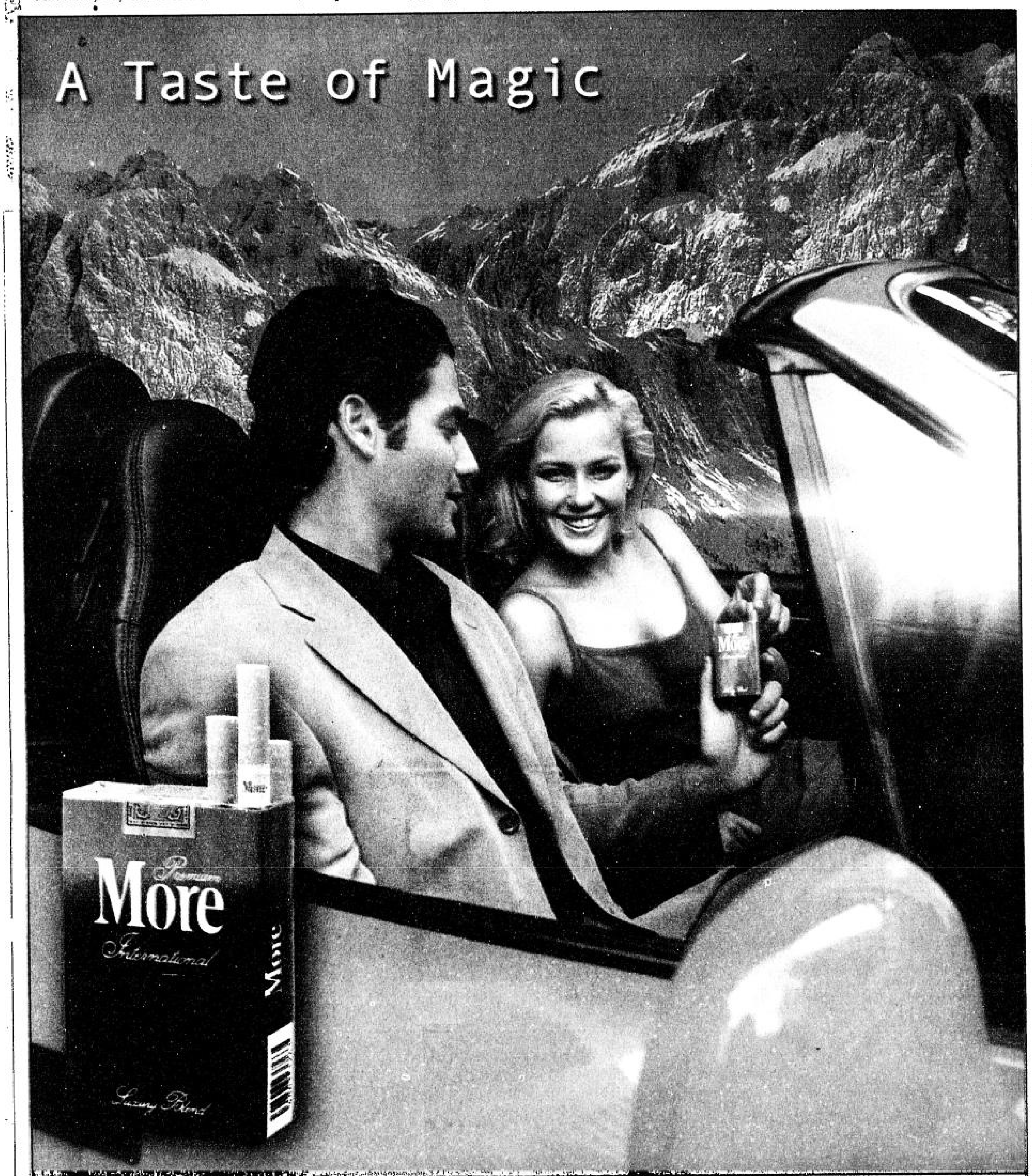
Her party's unexpectedly poor result in a Sept. 18 election also curbed her ability to dictate who will be in her team.

"I expect this cabinet to work as a team," Merkel told reporters as the ministers were unveiled.

With rivals from the SPD and her own conservative ranks in the cabinet, Merkel will be walking a fine line as she tries to reconcile conflicting personal and policy objectives.

Merkel's conservatives were forced into coalition talks with outgoing Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's SPD after they failed to win enough support in last month's election to govern with their reform-minded allies, the Free Democrats (FDP).

Reuters



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The V

Terrorism wars wanin

UNITED NATIONS—ARMED conflicts have dropped 40 percent since the end of the Cold War and those that persist are killing far fewer people, says a three-year study that attempts to debunk current myths about war and peace.

But even if genocide and human rights abuses are receding, "high-casualty" attacks by terrorists are not, according to the Human Security Report prepared at Canada's University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Nevertheless, international terrorism kills only a "tiny" number of people each year compared to those who die in war, the report said.

"We no longer have huge wars with huge armies, major engagements, heavy conventional weapons," said Andrew Mack, an academic and former UN official, who directed the study, funded by Canada, Britain, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

"Today's wars are low-intensity fought with light weapons, small arms in very poor countries. They are often extremely brutal but they don't kill that many people," he told a news conference

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Iraqi court to o

BAGHDAD—SADDAM HUSSEIN and seven senior members of his toppled regime go on trial Wednesday to face charges they ordered the 1982 killings of nearly 150 people from the mainly Shiite town of Dujail following a failed attempt on Saddam's life.

Court officials have said they are trying Saddam on the Dujail massacre first because it was the easiest and quickest case to put together. Other cases they are investigating—including a crackdown on the Kurds that killed an estimated 180,000 people—involve much larger numbers of victims, more witnesses and more documentation.

If convicted, Saddam and his co-defendants could face the death penalty, but they could appeal before another chamber of the Iraqi Special Tribunal.

Saddam and his co-defendants are expected to hear the charges against them during Wednesday's hearing, and the cour
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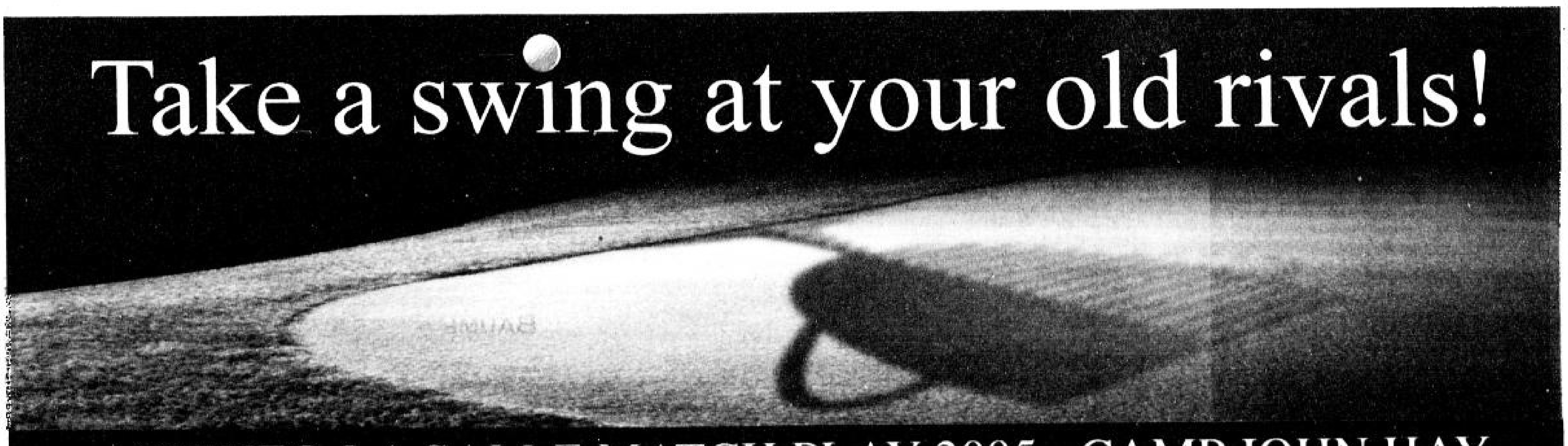

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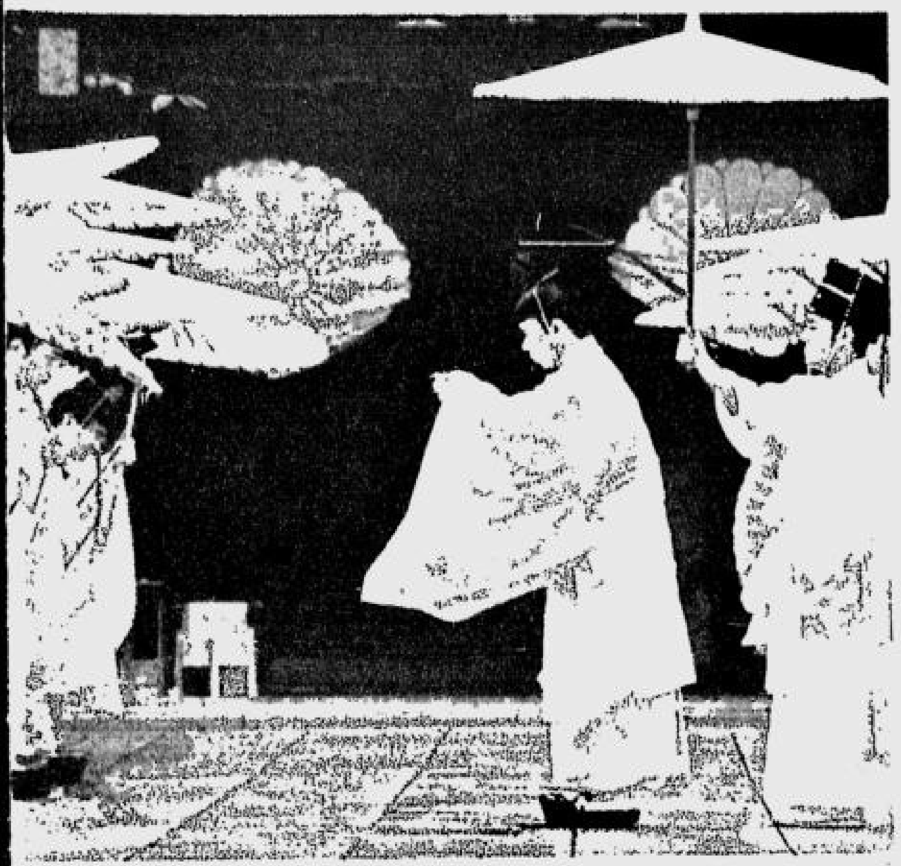

AUTUMN FEST Japanese Shinto priests holding up paper umbrellas bow in a ritual, during an autumn festival at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine Oct. 18. Some 200 Japanese lawmakers paid their respects at the shrine for the war dead. REUTERS

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rising but ng, says study

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ite the 1994 genocide the massacres at Sre- ear later and the con- geting of civilians in k said the number of d "politicides" fell 80 ween 1988 and 2001.

is defined as the groups because of city, religion or na- liticides are commu- in opposition to a regime or dominant group.

The post World War II "high point" for such murders was in the late 1980s in Afghanistan, El Salvador, Uganda, Iran and El Salvador, according to political scientist Barbara Harff, now at the US Naval Academy.

Despite the UN failures in Rwanda, Srebrenica and Somalia, the world body has a 40 to 60 percent success rate in stopping conflicts, said Mack "There has been an explosion in very broadly based peace operations that are essentially exercises in nation-building," he said. "They make a difference particularly with respect to stopping wars from starting again, and that's important because about 40 percent of the wars that have been stopped in the past tend to start again."

But Ian Levine, program director at Human Rights Watch, said he was concerned that the report's message might be construed as "we need not worry so much." He pointed to renewed debate on torture and the degradation of prisoners in Iraq. "We feel at the moment we are fighting hard to protect international standards. There is a real danger of going backwards," he said. *Reuters*

pen Saddam trial

t will address procedural trial is then expected to l for several weeks.

inister Ibrahim al-Jaa- ined Monday that the took an unjustifiably o prepare its case and ide concerns that the be biased against the tor.

ink there are any more mes in the world than itted by Saddam," said Muslim leader, five of relatives, including an r, were executed by Sad- ne in the 1980s and

lined, however, that the s family did not mean ld get a sense of person- n if the former dictator executed.

rget what happened to and my cousins. It is e of revenge or personal malice," al-Jaafari said during a 2½-hour meeting with journalists over "iftar," the sunset meal Muslims eat to break their fast during the month of Ramadan.

Al-Jaafari's Shiite Dawa Party was blamed by the toppled regime for the attempt on Saddam's life in Dujail, a Dawa stronghold. Of the estimated 17 party members who opened fire on Saddam's motorcade, eight were killed in a shootout with troops from Saddam's elite Republican Guard. Nine others escaped and fled to Iran.

Al-Jaafari, who took office in April as the head of a Shiite-Kurdish coalition, said he wanted Saddam to have a fair and open trial, but made it clear that he preferred the proceedings not drag on.

Saddam's 23-year regime was ousted in April 2003, but the former dictator was on the run for eight months before US troops captured him near his hometown of Tikrit. *AP*

Baath party calls for attacks

NICOSIA—SADDAM HUSSEIN'S OUSTED BAATH PARTY called for its supporters in Iraq to step up attacks on US and Iraqi forces to mark the start of his trial on Wednesday, according to an Internet statement.

"Salute the leader once he makes a public appearance at the trial by firing bullets and mortars of death at the occupier, its men, equipment and bases, as well as agents in the army and the symbols of treason," it said.

The statement, whose authenticity could not be verified, was addressed to the "Baathist resistance," "resistance fighters," and the "Fedayeen ('men of sacrifice') of Saddam Hussein."

"This illegal trial will turn a new page for the Jihad (holy war) of the Iraqi armed resistance ... which was organized, launched and prepared for the long run by our companion and leader Saddam Hussein," it said.

"The occupier and its agents in power will never be able to make any political or security benefit from this trial," said the Baath statement. In the first of a possible series of trials on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, Saddam will be in court Wednesday along with three former top aides and four Baath regional officials.

The men are accused of killing 143 people from the Shiite village of Dujail in 1982, allegedly as revenge for an attempt on Saddam's life. *AFP*

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Parameters

EDITORIAL

SINCE THE DAYS OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA treaty Organization, the Philippines and Australia have increasingly formalized a closeness that dates back to their being allies during World War II. Seato was created under the auspices of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty by representatives of Australia, France, Great Britain, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States during the Manila Summit of 1954, and lasted until 1977. Thereafter, Australia withdrew, in a sense, from active engagement in regional security matters, although the 1990s saw a renewal of Australian diplomatic interest in the region. Australia and the Philippines signed a defense cooperation agreement in 1995.

With the onset of America's War on Terror, Australia has positioned itself as an aggressive ally. In 2002, Prime Minister John Howard infuriated the region when he said he would support launching preemptive military strikes against terrorists based in neighboring countries if they posed a threat to Australia. His government has actively supported American efforts to engage in anti-terrorism activities in our part of the world. Australia has also increased its security assistance to the Philippines, and in 2003, it signed agreements combating terrorism and transnational crimes.

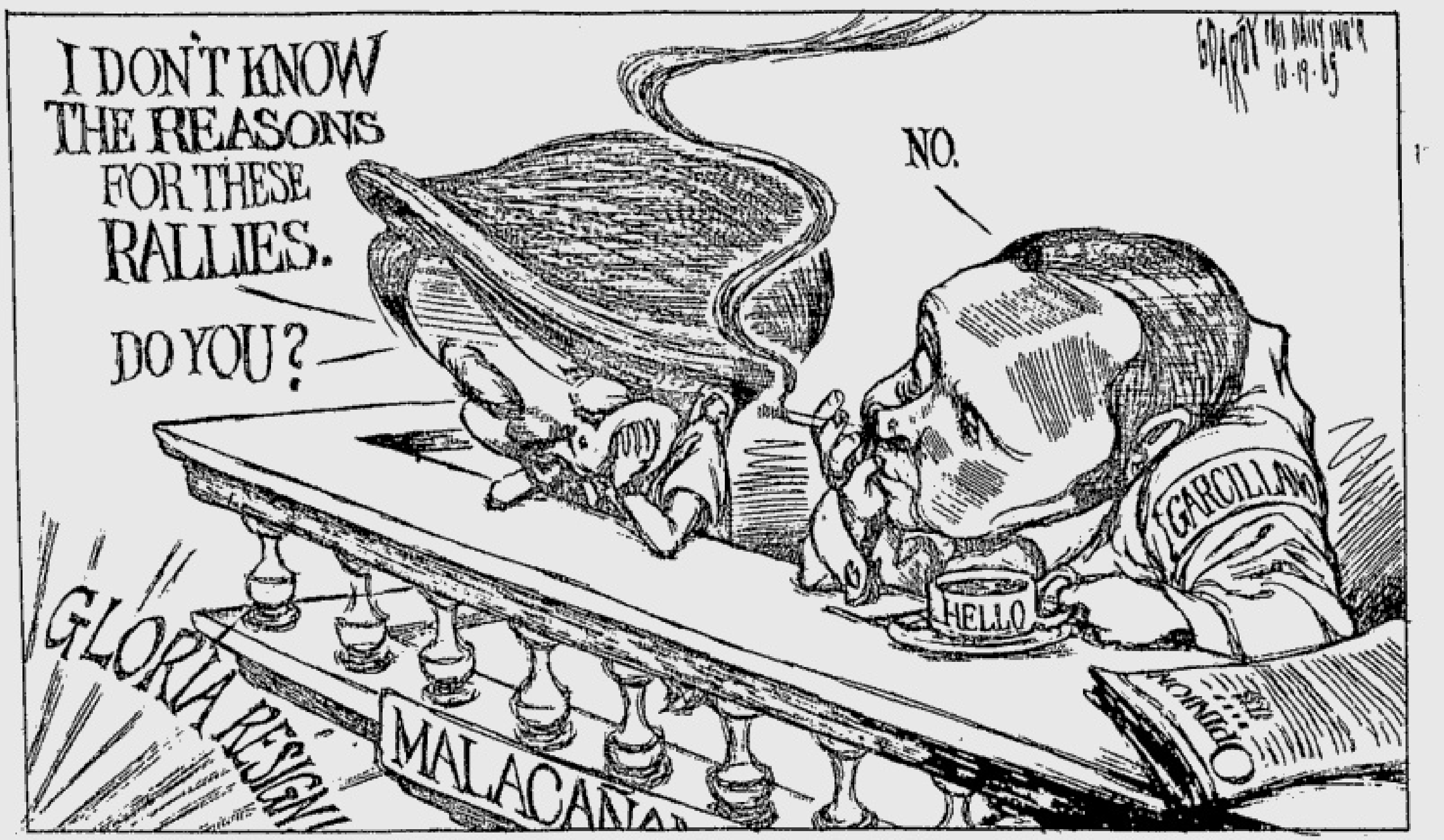
Last week, the head of Australia's elite special forces, Maj. Gen. Mike Hindmarsh, visited Zamboanga City. The purpose of his visit was to get a briefing by Philippine officials on the security situation, particularly with regard to the efforts to hunt down two Jemaah Islamiyah bomb-makers who had helped assemble the bombs used in the 2002 Bali attacks that killed more than 200 people, including scores of Australians. Australia's Special Air Service Regiment and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization are closely working with the Philippine military to apprehend the two Indonesian bombers.

Hindmarsh was followed by Defense Minister Robert Hill, who said his visit was "about how we can strengthen our sea and air defense system, and exchange intelligence information about the Jemaah Islamiyah." His remarks were followed by concrete proposals to have Australian soldiers train the AFP in counter-terrorism tactics.

Australia says it wants an agreement patterned after the Visiting Forces Agreement which allows periodic joint exercises to be conducted by Philippine and American troops. Last year, the Philippines proposed a "Status of Forces Agreement" with Australia, and the US has publicly endorsed the agreement, which covers not only the parameters under which Australian troops would operate while in the Philippines but matters such as the applicability, if any, of Philippine laws to Australian soldiers who get into trouble with Filipinos.

However, any such agreement would require a treaty, and the concurrence of the Philippine Senate. In the case of the United States, the Visiting Forces Agreement was entered into under the framework of yet another treaty, the Philippine-American Mutual Defense Treaty, and received the Senate's concurrence. Our Constitution doesn't permit the presence of foreign troops in the Philippines for any extended duration otherwise.

While it is reassuring that neither the AFP nor the Australian military, at least based on their public pronouncements, envisions the active participation of Australian troops in combat activities, increasing the level of participation, cooperation and training between the AFP and the Australian military will require an explicit statement of policy from the concerned governments to that effect. While training and equipment are badly needed by our Armed Forces, every possible reassurance must be given that the constitutional limitations on the presence of foreign troops on Philippine soil will be respected. This means that the process of discussion, dissemination, and debate over the terms of any proposed treaty will not only have to involve the Senate, but the public as well. Neither country can afford to turn an alliance into an opportunity for mutual recriminations and hostility.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As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IT SHOULD BE COMPULSORY FOR ALL policemen and public officials, from the President down, to read the Constitution and understand what it means and, in particular cases like the present controversy over rallies, the law that governs that activity. Some police officers have admitted to the Commission on Human Rights that they have not read Batas Pambansa 880, but it appears that top police officials, the justice secretary, and even the President herself have not read it. For if they did, the hosing down of the peaceful ralliers last Friday the 14th would not have happened.

Section 10, paragraph [c] of the law prohibits the use of water cannons to disperse a peaceful assembly. "Tear gas, smoke grenades, water cannons, or any similar anti-riot device shall not be used unless the public assembly is attended by actual violence or serious threats of violence, or deliberate destruction of property." The rally was very peaceful—in fact, leaders of the assembly and police officers were negotiating—when the two firemen opened up with their water cannon.

BP 880 which the police are citing to justify the dispersal of public rallies was, ironically, issued by the Marcos regime in 1985 to guarantee the right of the people to attend rallies as provided by the Bill of Rights. Imagine that, it was the dictator Marcos, the sponsor of martial law, who passed a law not to curtail public rallies. (But it is the regime of Ate Glue that is repressing the rights of the people guaranteed by the Constitution.)

The police are to be on the scene not to prevent the rally but to protect the ralliers. "It is the duty of the licensing authorities, city or municipality, to provide proper police protection to those exercising their rights to peaceable assembly and freedom of speech." Remember this, policemen, you are sent there not to protect the President but to protect the people from interference. "Sec. 9. Non-interference by law enforcement authorities-Law enforcement agencies shall not interfere with the holding of a public assembly."

"Sec. 10. Police assistance when required-It shall be imperative for law enforcement agencies, when their assistance is requested by the leaders or organizers, to perform their duties always mindful that their responsibility to provide proper protection to those exercising their right to peaceably assemble and the freedom of expression is primordial." In other words, it is the leaders of the rally who should ask for a police contingent to protect them, not to prevent their rally or to disperse them.

The police say the ralliers were being banned from Mendiola Street. But BP 880 guarantees that the public assembly can be held in any "public place" and that "includes any highway, boulevard, avenue, road, street, bridge or other thoroughfare, park, plaza, square, and/or any open space of public ownership where the public are allowed access." Mendiola is one such street.

As for the permit that local governments give so much importance to, Sec. 4 provides that "no permit shall be required if the public assembly shall be held or made in a freedom park…or in a private property…or on the campus of a government-owned and operated education institution…"

And Sec. 15 mandates "every city and municipality in the country (to), within six months after the effectivity of this Act, establish or designate at least one suitable 'freedom park' or mall in their respective jurisdictions which, as far as practicable, shall be centrally located within the poblacion where demonstrations and meeting are to be held at any time without the need of any prior permit." Manila has three freedom parks: Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Plaza Bonifacio in front of the Post Office, and the Freedom Plaza in front of Malacañang. As far as I know, there are none in Quezon City and the other cities and municipalities that comprise Metro Manila, as well as many of the other cities and municipalities in the country. The law mandates the establishment of such freedom parks within six months of its effectivity which was in 1985. The deadline has long passed.

A permit is required if the assembly is to be held in any place other than those mentioned above, but the granting of the permit is merely ministerial. "The mayor or any official acting in his behalf shall act on the application within two working days from the date the application was filed, failing which, the permit shall be deemed granted."

The law further says: "If the mayor is of the view that there is imminent and grave danger of a substantive evil warranting the denial or modification of the permit, he shall immediately inform the applicant who must be heard on the matter. The action on the permit shall be in writing and served on the applicant within 24 hours." The applicant may contest any adverse decision in a court of law, where it must be decided within 24 hours after filing, and is immediately executory.

According to numerous rulings by the Supreme Court, the burden of proof on a "grave and imminent danger" is on the mayor who must not rely solely on his own assessment of what public welfare, peace or safety may require. There must be objective and convincing, not subjective or conjectural, proof of the existence of such clear and present danger of the substantive evil. In other words, to justify a denial of the application, there must be proof of such weight and sufficiency to satisfy the clear and present danger test.

The laws also provide appropriate penalties for any "public officer who directly or indirectly obstructs, defeats, violates, impedes or impairs the exercise of rights and liberties of another person."

Once more, with feeling

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I GOT A NUMBER OF TEXT MESSAGES AND e-mails from people, some of them officials of civic organizations, agreeing with my propositions about People Power. Specifically, the part where I say that People Power has always had a story of Good vs. Evil as its underlying theme, and that a story of Evil alone, without a corresponding Good, doesn't quite do the trick. The Good in our current situation is new elections, nothing more, nothing less. The people who texted and e-mailed me promised to press this cause before their favorite bishop, businessman and NGO leader.

I am glad people are listening, though I still wonder why people should need convincing on this. It seems almost commonsensical. For those who have been inviting me to forums and gatherings to elaborate on it, I figure a column should do it better. Unlike Michael Keaton in "Multiplicity," I cannot produce clones of myself to be in several places at the same time. In any case, the idea is simple enough in itself, as most sound ideas are. The more complicated a solution is, the more likely it misses the point.

New elections are not just a benign solution to the problem, they are the only solution to the problem. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. What is the problem? The problem is, we do not have a legitimate president ruling us. The solution is to have a legitimate president ruling us. The problem is that GMA cheated in the elections, a near-universal perception as shown by the surveys—indeed one no longer denied even by GMA's allies. The solution is to have clean elections, one assured by revamping the Comelec, computerizing the canvassing and having foreign observers monitor the exercise.

The Evil is that we have an unelected president who is employing more and more dictatorial methods to keep power, which is the tail wagging the dog, every institution of society being perverted to sustain a lie. The Good is to elect a president who will restore democratic processes, which is the dog wagging the tail, allowing the various institutions of society to function as they should again.

Forget the Pulse Asia survey that says new elections are one of the top alternatives of Filipinos to the current regime—they rank much higher than a council of leaders, revolutionary or not. You need no further proof that elections lodge deeply, if in inchoate form, in the public mind than that everyone agrees passionately on one thing. That is that if FPJ were alive, we would not be having this crisis today. "*Tapos na sana ang boksing,*" as the local phrase goes. Things would have been over in July when the "Hello Garci" tape first surfaced.

What does this mean really? Does this mean that FPJ is merely immensely popular and would have been the perfect alternative to GMA? I suppose his popularity counts for something especially as his heroic reel image was burnished by the inspiring real-life decency with which he comported himself during the elections and afterward. I was particularly impressed by the fact that even as GMA bankrupted Pagcor and the PCSO to depict her in ads visiting areas stricken by calamity (thereby adding catastrophe to the calamity), FPJ was preparing cartons of relief goods for the victims of a ferocious storm in Infanta with no labels on them to identify their source shortly before he was stricken ill and died.

But more than that, what it means is that FPJ is the near-universally recognized winner of the last elections. He is the elected president, he is the legitimate president, he is the rightful president. The boxing bout would have been over because the right person—by law, by God and by aesthetics—would have been there.

What is the next best thing to having FPJ around? New elections. New elections may not assure that the right person by aesthetics or by principle will be there, but it will at least assure that the right person by law, by God and by golly will be there. That is one humongous Good because it signifies democratic, constitutional and peaceful change people can relate to. I don't know that the *boksing* will be over if the various groups now opposing GMA call for new elections as the answer to her. I do think it will be close to it.

A choice between relative evils is not enough to drive people to heroic action. Certainly, it is not enough to lift their carcasses up from the couch in front of the TV set or from the table in front of the videoke and drag them all the way to Edsa to oust a usurper. And that is what we have today, a choice between relative evils.

Look at the exceptionally cruel ironies we are regaling the public with. The problem is that GMA is the unelected president but is running the country, and our solution is to replace her with a group of unelected people who will run the country. The difference presumably being that the new group will do better, stopping corruption and ushering reform. But that difference vaporizes the issue of legitimacy completely, turning the question into, "Who is better fit to rule?" No wonder GMA has been able to hang around, arguing there is no one better than her. It is the wrong question. The right question is: "Who has the right to rule?" That can only be settled by elections.

Even worse, look where we are now, the groups opposing GMA now relying on the military to topple GMA in lieu of People Power. Can anything be more ironic than that we want a coup to prevent GMA from throwing the country under the yoke of martial law, declared or de facto? What is martial law? Putting the country under military rule. What is a military coup? Putting the country under military rule.

And we expect to scare off the public with dire warnings of martial law?

The challenge of Balakot

COMMENTARY

Pervez Hoodbhoy

ALONG WITH A GROUP OF FACULTY, STAFF and students from my university in Islamabad, I journeyed to Balakot, close to the center of the Kashmir earthquake. This mountainous town, situated on the banks of the Kunhar River, has been destroyed. There is rubble and the gut-wrenching smell of decaying corpses. The rats have it good; the one I accidentally stepped upon was already fat. If there is a plan to clear the concrete rubble in and around the town, nobody seems to have any clue. But the Balakotis are taking it in their stride—nose masks are everywhere.

But there is good news. We were just one of countless groups of ordinary citizens that were on the move after the enormity of last Saturday's earthquake became apparent. The Mansehra to Balakot road, finally forced open by huge army bulldozers, is now lined with relief trucks bursting with supplies that were donated by people from across the country. This is one of those rare times that I have seen Pakistan's people feel and move together as a nation. Even the armed bandits who waylay relief supplies—making necessary a guard of soldiers with automatic weapons, standing every few hundred yards—cannot destroy this moment.

Islamic groups from across the country have also arrived. Some bring relief supplies; others simply harangue those who have lost loved ones and livelihoods, lecturing that their misdeeds brought about this catastrophe. No one seems to have an explanation for why God's wrath was especially directed to mosques, madrasas and schools—all of which collapsed in huge numbers. No one can say why thousands of the faithful have been buried alive in this sacred month of fasting.

Aid from across the world is making its way toward the destruction, and the United States is here, too. Double-bladed Chinook helicopters, diverted from fighting al-Qaida in Afghanistan, now fly over the heartland of jihad and the militant training camps in Mansehra to drop food and tents a few miles beyond. Temporarily birds of peace rather than of war, they do immensely more to calm angry Islamists than the reams of glossy propaganda put out by the US information services in Pakistan.

Their visibility makes relief choppers terrific propaganda, for better or for worse. This is undoubtedly why the Pakistani government refused an Indian offer to send in helicopters for relief work in and around Muzzafarabad, the flattened capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir. Sadly, in spite of a much celebrated peace process, Pakistan refuses visas to Indian peace groups and activists seeking to help in the relief effort. It is still not too late to open this door and let Pakistanis, Indians and Kashmiris help each other.

The challenges are many. The aid remains too little. There are not enough tents, blankets and warm clothes to go around. Hundreds of tent clusters have come up, but thousands of families remain out under the skies, facing rain and hail, and with dread in their hearts. These families have lost everything but the tattered clothes on their backs. Some even lost the land they had lived upon for generations—the top soil simply slid away, leaving behind hard rock and rubble.

Worst of all, aid is not reaching those most affected. Hundreds of destroyed communities are scattered deep in the mountains. We saw helicopters attempt aerial drops (landing is impossible in most places). But people told us that they often miss and the supplies land thousands of feet up or below in deep forests. Distribution is haphazard and uncoordinated, done with little thought. We saw relief workers throw packets of food and clothes from the top of trucks, causing a riot. Hustlers thrive; the weak watch passively.

The clock is ticking. In two months, the mountains will get their first snowfall and temperatures will plummet below zero. Millions may have been made homeless. Those without shelter will die. Tents will not do.

From a special university fund, we pledged to rebuild the homes of a dozen families. But ten thousand or more families will need homes in the Mansehra-Balakot-Kaghan area alone, not to speak of adjoining Kashmir. The task of saving lives has barely begun.

For me personally, there is a sense of déjà vu. Nearly 31 years ago, on Dec. 25, 1974, a powerful earthquake flattened towns along the Karakorum Highway and killed nearly 10,000 people. I traveled with a university team into the same mountains for similar relief work. Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had made a passionate appeal for funds around the world, had taken a token helicopter trip to the destroyed town of Besham, and then made fantastic promises of relief and rehabilitation. Hundreds of millions of dollars in relief funds received from abroad mysteriously disappeared. Some well-informed people believe that those funds were used to kick off Pakistan's secret nuclear program.

Will today's government do better? This will only be assured if citizens organize themselves to play a more direct role in relief and rehabilitation for the long term. Civil society groups must now assert themselves. They must demand a voice in planning and implementing the reconstruction effort and, along with international donors, transparency and public auditing of where aid is spent.

Project Syndicate

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Mendiola and CPR

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MENDIOLA IS THE NATION'S—AND NOT JUST MANILA'S—freedom park. Our presidents have always recognized that. In a strong democracy, there were never fears of the crowds at Mendiola, the government and the governed understanding the rules of the game: Mendiola was there so one could get within symbolic earshot of the nation's center of power, to vent grievances. Presidents knew that by allowing rallies in Mendiola, they were showing how confident they were in themselves.

Even Ferdinand Marcos allowed rallies on Mendiola through most of his dictatorship. Ominously, and the Arroyo administration should take note, it was only in the last years of the Marcos dictatorship, as it went through its death throes, that the authorities cracked down on Mendiola rallies.

Last week's water cannon incident reminds older Filipinos like myself of that historic confrontation more than 20 years ago when Don Chino Roces, who must have been in his 80s, stood defiant, arms locked with other protesters, to defend democratic space on Mendiola as the water cannons were turned on them.

That rally was in fact an advanced wake for Marcos. After Marcos fell, the bridge across Mendiola was named after Don Chino, who must be turning in his grave now to see how more elderly statesmen like former Vice President Tito Guingona and Bishop Julio Labayen have once again tried to hold the fort, only to be rebuffed by Arroyo's CPR.

After Marcos was overthrown, rallies were once again allowed on Mendiola, but the fragility of our democratic institutions emerged when the authorities fired on a peasant rally calling for land reform. Thirteen peasants were killed, and more than 80 ralliers were injured. The carnage was a wake-up call for the Aquino presidency; fortunately, her government listened and despite a series of rightwing coup attempts, did not fall for the authoritarian temptation.

Arroyo's CPR

Today, we have a different presidency. Some people will say the Arroyo government's CPR is a legitimate way of defending democracy. I can't be so sure about that. The signs all show that we have a government—from the President herself to her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye and, worst of all, "Justice" Secretary Raul Gonzales—that can barely spell the word "democracy." I would dare say they have an authoritarian mind-set worse than Marcos'. Marcos had some sophistication, someone who would still try to charm his way through with diplomatic tact, wielding a velvet glove as a last resort. Arroyo doesn't even try to use kid gloves to fit her size. She's raring for a fight and has shown she will use every trick in the book to bully her way through.

The Arroyo government is in a dilemma, aware that the Constitution makes it difficult to make an outright declaration of martial law, but those advisers know, too, that the existing democratic dispensation does not favor its survival, that there will be more and more challenges to the legitimacy of the Arroyo government. Their CPR strategy takes the nation not necessarily toward martial law, but into deeper waters of authoritarianism.

The tactics only reflect the goals. Like Bush's "preemptive war" doctrine, there are no pretences of fair play here: strike out against someone on the slightest suspicion that they are up to some "mischief."

The most notorious example of Bush's preemptive war is the invasion of Iraq, which presumed Saddam Hussein was a major supporter of the al-Qaida and that he was intent on using weapons of mass destruction. Both premises have been proven wrong, but Bush continues headstrong with his preemptive offensives, dragging the whole world deeper into a quagmire.

Let's face it, even before coining the term "CPR," Arroyo has always been preemptive, from her assuming the presidency after Estrada's fall to her "lapse of judgment" during the last election and now her flirtation with emergency powers. As with Bush's preemptive wars, Arroyo's preemptive moves take us deeper into a political quagmire.

CPR vs CPR

This is where another kind of CPR is needed, and this is a kind of calibrated people's response to the government's preemptive shows of force. Government is watching, testing the waters. If it uses force and get silence in return, it will become more emboldened. The Mendiola incident set off protest statements from a few quarters, including the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, but these may not be enough to make the Arroyo government back off.

It's time we recognized that the Arroyo government has been put on the defensive. Their CPR is a "response" to what's going on in public spaces, mainly in the halls of Congress, on the streets and in the mass media. CPR necessarily includes psywar tactics, such as the rumors that authorities have a kind of "hit list" of opposition politicians and mass media practitioners who are critical of her administration. Force and threats are there to see if they can help to turn down the volume of public protests.

In the weeks to come, there will be more calibrated moves on the part of government, as well as those of the "opposition," and government's belligerence will be inversely related to the public's apathy and timidity.

First aid CPR

The first time I read about the government's CPR, what came to my mind was "cardio-pulmonary resuscitation," the first aid that you administer to an unconscious patient.

In a way, the nation does need CPR. We are a nation beaten into unconsciousness from years of seeing our ideals battered and betrayed. First-aid CPR is quick and decisive, using "force" to breath life back into the body politic, to jolt the heart into its life-sustaining rhythms.

Unfortunately, the Arroyo government's CPR isn't going to resuscitate the patient; with its clumsy use of force, the nation could drift further into a comatose state.

In the hospital, the patient eventually dies. But out in the real world, the comatose nation may in fact come alive again, in a different way. What I fear is that Arroyo's CPR will eventually lead to chaos and anarchy.

If the Arroyo government truly understands the meaning of "calibrated," they need to learn again from Mendiola. The ralliers will respect Mendiola's space for as long as democratic institutions are respected. When government itself closes down Mendiola and takes away all democratic options, it opens the way—as Marcos did—for the crowds to eventually breach the boundaries, and storm Malacañang.

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A new fight for the 'Rainbow Warrior'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE ANNALS OF GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY, Greenpeace has made a name for itself for its high profile, confrontational and very controversial actions on a host of issues, most of them having to do with peace and the environment.

And in the history of the conflict between governments and Greenpeace, none perhaps compares with the sinking, by secret agents belonging to French intelligence, of the "Rainbow Warrior" 20 years ago. While docked in Auckland, New Zealand, preparatory to sailing for the French-held Moruroa Atoll in the Southern Pacific on a mission to block nuclear weapons tests, the "Rainbow Warrior" was bombed and permanently damaged. While French operatives later claimed they had tried to avoid injuries or deaths, a Greenpeace photographer, Fernando Pereira, was caught in the ship's hold by the second explosion and killed.

About a month after the bombing, the "Rainbow Warrior" was towed out to a New Zealand bay and allowed to sink to the bottom. In the decades since, as a documentary "The Boat and the Bomb" shows, the ship's remains have been transformed into a small reef, encrusted with coral and other marine life and teeming with fish and other creatures that have found in the bowels of the ship a home and a breeding ground.

But even in this transformed role, the original "Rainbow Warrior" remains under threat, not from powerful explosives and arrogant governments, but from nature itself or, to put it more accurately, from changes in climate brought on by global warming.

"Climate change (another term for global warming) is today considered the greatest environmental threat facing the planet," states a Greenpeace document. "It is caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil…(but it) can be stopped only if we begin the massive shift away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. It is a shift that must begin not tomorrow but today."

* * *

IN THE WORLD'S oceans, global warming has resulted in the "warming of sea water," says Greenpeace Southeast Asia regional energy campaigner Red Constantino. The shift in water temperature has started a process of "coral bleaching," which kills off entire coral reef systems and affects the health and number of marine life as well. The loss would be particularly acute in the Philippines, which has one of the most diverse habitats in the marine tropics, being home to 488 coral species out of 500 known such species worldwide, while over a third of the 2,300 known fish species in the Philippines are "reef associated."

But global warming has impact on the ground and on the climate and weather conditions as well. Constantino says that while there is no clear scientific proof that recent calamitous events, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the US Gulf Coast, and our own bizarre unseasonal typhoons, can be attributed directly to global warming, "current scientific evidence strongly suggests…that hurricanes tend to become more destructive as ocean temperatures rise."

El Niño, a completely natural phenomenon that results in weather fluctuations and drought, may also be affected by global warming, occurring more frequently and with longer durations.

"Southeast Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the effects of climate change," says Constantino, citing the number of archipelagic countries with large areas already lying below sea level which would be inundated should sea levels start to rise. And yet, he rues, among Southeast Asian countries, "climate change is not a policy driver."

* * *

THAT could yet change, though. Greenpeace has identified climate change as one of its major issues, and to support the campaign to get governments around the world to shift to less polluting sources of energy, Greenpeace has deployed "Rainbow Warrior II," a descendant of the sunken ship, to call attention to this urgent issue.

The campaign ship's first stop on its visit to the Philippines starting Oct. 27 will be Puerto Princesa in Palawan, with stops in Iloilo, Bacolod and Manila. Students, community groups and NGOs may take advantage of "Open Boat" days not just to tour the ship's decks, which have been graced by the Dalai Lama and the rock band U2, but also to learn more about the issues of global warming and what ordinary citizens can do to convince the government to shift priorities to the development of "clean" energy.

From Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, Greenpeace will also stage a three-day dive at the world-famous Tubbataha coral reef to dramatize what is at stake in this fight against global warming. The rich and diverse environs of Tubbataha are particularly vulnerable to the effects of rising sea temperatures.

A campaign called "10 percent by 2010" has been launched, calling on the Philippine government to enact a policy that would ensure that 10 percent (from the current ratio of less than two percent) of our energy be sourced from clean, renewable and "free" sources such as the sun, the wind and modern biomass.

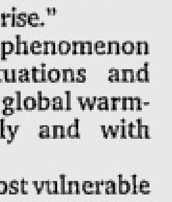
* * *

WHY 10 percent? "Because '10 by 2010' sounded nice," jokes Constantino, though he adds that the increase to 10 percent of renewable energy sources is certainly feasible and achievable by 2010. "We're not even asking for subsidies," he adds, noting that all government has to do is to declare this as a policy goal "and the private sector and potential investors can immediately step in."

Aside from talking with government to push the issue, Greenpeace has also decided to tap "star power," getting celebrities and entertainers to lend the power of their visibility and their appeal to the youth to harness public opinion behind this issue. But that's a topic for another column!

Lack of appreciation for our heritage

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE management and preservation of cultural heritage resources opens this morning at the Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University, with high-powered speakers from Asean, Australia, Hong Kong and the United States. For a country with a lot of heritage at risk, a gathering like this is timely and necessary but my only reservation is that the hall will be filled with like-minded individuals and institutions. The speakers will be preaching to the converted.

I have always argued that the first step in any cultural heritage plan is to make ordinary people aware of the tangible and intangible treasures in their midst. The second step is moving from appreciation to a desire to preserve these. Those responsible for managing our cultural heritage resources—librarians, archivists, museologists and cultural administrators are the second line of defense and will have nothing to preserve if people destroy, willfully or not, what isn't yet protected in a library, archive or museum.

In the 25 years that I have been doing research, I have had memorable encounters and first-hand experiences of heritage protection or the lack of them that are worth narrating here. We start with my favorite: I used to visit the late Paz R. Tolentino in her sturdy pre-war home on Retiro Street in Sampaloc, Manila. She was the widow of Guillermo Tolentino, our first National Artist for Sculpture (there are to date only two National Artists in this field, the other being Napoleon V. Abueva), and through her stories and recollections, I was able to get to know about Tolentino beyond sculpture. He was a man with many facets: an accomplished guitar player, he wrote the libretto for the opera "Noli me tangere"; he was an authority on the pre-colonial Philippine script *baybayin* a.k.a. *alibata*; he was an amateur astronomer who built his own telescope; he was a prominent spiritist who sponsored séances in his home where he conversed with our heroes (in one of his books is a transcript of a conversation between Trinidad Rizal who spoke with her brother Jose through a medium). There was so much to uncover about Tolentino especially in what was left of his sculptures, both finished and unfinished, in a small studio beside the main house.

One day when I came to visit Paz Tolentino, she said she had a surprise for me. She rushed me into the living room and gleefully asked, "Have you noticed anything new?" I looked around and noticed that the sala, which had once been rather dark and forlorn, was now bright and cheerful. Sunlight was streaming in through the glass windows, accented by new curtains made with light material with a gay floral pattern. She proudly declared that she had made all the curtains herself with her sewing machine and showed me the *padron* or patterns from huge crisp pieces of what looked like Manila or wax paper dug out of the maestro's drawers.

I was shocked after taking a closer look at the *padron* as I recognized the blueprints or plans for the Bonifacio monument in Caloocan! When I said these were priceless, she offered them to me. All but one had been cut up for the curtain patterns.

Materials like these are often conserved in a museum or library, but before that, they must survive our humidity, pests, flood, earthquake, war and, of course, the most destructive factor of all—people who do not realize its value.

Two decades ago when I visited the National Library director, I would park in the back or service entrance of the library where I used to see a ground-floor window that had been broken a long time, with the hole covered with a piece of marine plywood that had a colorful painting resembling a sunburst or a star. It was only later that I found out that it was part of a mural by National Artist Carlos V. Francisco.

It was a large work consisting of 17 panels of marine plywood exhibited in Luneta and was even reproduced in Time magazine. After the exposition, the mural was dismantled and the panels stored in the National Library where they were forgotten for many years. Today, only three panels are left, none of which connect to each other. Where did the rest go? They were used for firewood or for building repairs. As a matter of fact, the back of one panel had smudges of oil and a drawn checker board, proof that it once served as a makeshift table top. At the time the Botong Francisco mural was consigned to the bodega he was not yet a National Artist and people probably treated this now lost treasure as billboard or movie *telon* material. What was lacking here was an appreciation of the importance of the artifact.

Another time, I found myself in a small town off Tagbilaran in Bohol. There was a town fiesta and the band went around the streets playing rowdy music. When they stopped for merienda, I looked at the drums and discovered that holes on the playing surface were covered with ancient pig or sheepskin. These had the unmistakable marks of Gregorian chant, so I asked where they came from. I was told they came from a bodega in church, from big choir books that were no longer in use. These ancient pieces of music were used to cover the drums of the town band.

I could cite more examples, but these are enough to stress my point that we need to encourage an appreciation for heritage in everyday life.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Safer to take bird flu scare seriously

LETTERS

THE NEWS ITEM "CANDABA LIKELY AREA for bird flu outbreak" (PDI, 10/10/05) jolted me. Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo's efforts to mobilize the townsfolk and sound the alarm bells are commendable, but he needs help.

The consensus of experts abroad is that the occurrence of another pandemic (it would be the fourth in 84 years) is not a matter of "if," but "when." The worldwide Spanish flu pandemic in 1918 killed around 40 million; the succeeding two were not so virulent. The one coming may be a repeat of the 1918 pandemic. (It may not occur at all, but some experts believe this is wishful thinking.) Incidentally, the World Health Organization primer on the bird flu says that migratory birds may be carriers of the H5N1 virus although these birds themselves, being very sturdy, may not be affected by the virus. If this virulent strain infects the ducks in Candaba and nearby areas, the rest of Central Luzon and Metro Manila will be at risk. And the consequences will be devastating in terms of human lives and economic loss for our country.

Whatever, it is better to err on the side of caution. The provincial governments of Pampanga and Bulacan, and the national government, should support the moves to prevent migratory birds from infecting ducks being raised by farmers around the Candaba swamp. One proposal is the banning of duck-raising in open fields, a traditional practice of duck raisers in the area who rely on the corn, rice grits and snails in the fields as feed for their ducks. Understandably, these farmers are protesting this move as it will affect their livelihood and income.

I made some calculations: assuming there are 1,000 farmers to be affected, with an average of 100 ducks each, and the cost of feeding these with commercial feeds comes to around P5 per duck per day, the total outlay of all these farmers would amount to P500,000 per day for the entire area. If you multiply this by 100 days (November to early February 2006, the period when the migratory birds flee the cold regions of China and feed at the Candaba swamp), then an aggregate outlay of P50 million is needed. This is probably understated; perhaps the farmers number 2,000 or perhaps their average stock is 200 ducks. Then the P50 million would cover only 50 percent of their feed needs.

But P50 million is less than what Pagcor nets in a day, or less than a congressman's annual P70-million pork barrel. Or less than what Pampanga province probably earns from taxes on lahar haulers in a month. Pagcor or the provincial government can subsidize the feed requirements of these duck farmers during this period of extreme risk. Or maybe Central Luzon representatives can allocate P10 million each from their pork barrel, or Malacañang can use funds from its intelligence budget.

An ouncce of prevention is worth a ton of cure. Our honorable government officials should think about this.

—EFREN M. YAMBOT,
emyambot@yahoo.com

We have to move on

THIS IS A REACTION TO CONRADO DE Quiros' column titled "What happened to our democracy." His view—based on the "Hello Garci" tapes—that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stole the last presidential election, and therefore has no right to lead us, is pathetic. In the column, he said that GMA is not a clear winner. On the other hand, he said there were always clear winners in the presidential elections before martial law.

Why did he not cite the Marcos vs. Cory Aquino electoral race in 1986? It was not clear if Aquino really won, still we allowed her to rule us. In the 1992 presidential race, everybody knew there was cheating, that was why Miriam Santiago filed an electoral protest against Fidel Ramos, except that it didn't prosper.

What surprises me is that he did not mention the Estrada vs. De Venecia contest.

I think the ordinary folk are tired of suggestions that our problem can be solved by changing the President.

Who are the witnesses in the charges against GMA? Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani. But he is allied with the opposition. Had FPJ won over GMA, Gudani might have been appointed AFP's top man.

How can our democracy work if we don't respect our laws and leaders? Of course, I condemn corruption and cheating. But the accused must be accorded due process. The evidence against him or her should be strong and admissible.

I would rather agree with Belinda Olivares' analysis that the real ordinary people don't buy the "charges" against the President and they're too busy earning a living.

Let's move forward and work hard for the sake of our children. Why spend millions in elections only to ask the President to resign or oust her by force?

Accusing GMA of having a monopoly of corruption and being morally bankrupt is totally insane. There are other corrupt and morally bankrupt people in the government, even in the private sector, too. How about the politicians who are going to replace GMA? And shall we just accept them? Nevermind if they are not elected? Is this not double standard?

If we continue to replace our leaders through mob rule, we will never attain political stability and enjoy genuine democracy. Thank God I made the right decision and moved out of the country instead of marching in the streets again as we did in February 1986.

Please, God, save the Philippines.

—VER BONIFACIO,
vyb_nike@yahoo.com

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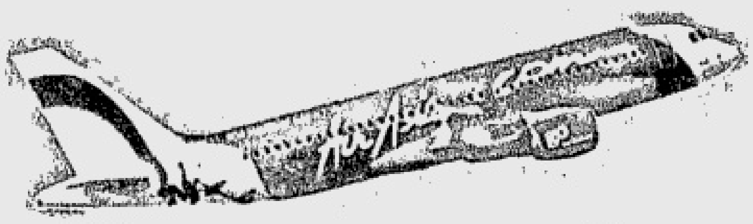

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Who's afraid of General Palparan?

CONTROVERSIAL MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN JR., THE newly installed commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division (ID), was hardly the picture of his notorious "berdugo" (executioner) tag when he met with the INQUIRER *on Oct. 14.*

Palparan, 55, peered through a pair of thick glasses but was not caught casting distrustful glances.

Not much of a rapid talker, he answered questions variedly, through bullet phrases or "mini lectures."

Though he had a soft voice and cool temper, he spoke with passion, given out by hand gestures and emphasis on thoughts he deemed important. Now and then, he broke his serious look with a wide grin.

The "berdugo" label, in his own observation, has come with more intensity as he returned to Central Luzon, the birthplace and still the bailiwick of old and new communist parties in the country.

In 1985, after several stints in Mindanao, he worked in Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales as commander of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion.

Twenty years later, Palparan's comeback is fiercely resisted as he now heads the 7th ID that covers seven Central Luzon provinces as well as portions of Pangasinan and Cagayan Valley.

But looks, his critics in the Left warned, could be deceiving. "He may appear to be a gentle general but anywhere he went, many human rights abuses on activists, civilians and communities have occurred," said Roman Polintan, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Central Luzon.

In Eastern Visayas and Mindoro, Palparan is blamed for about 500 cases of killings, disappearances and other violations. In just over a month, 13 leaders and members of Bayan Muna, Bayan and their affiliate organizations in Central Luzon had been killed. These were six cases short of the 19 killings recorded during the eight months before Palparan's assignment in the region.

Four party-list legislators last week managed to block the officer's confirmation as a two-star general. "It's a victory for them," Palparan wryly admitted.

Palparan, who was a product of the Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) and who rose from the ranks due to his victory in the battlefield, admitted not being a voracious reader of the works of Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu and communist ideologues Karl Marx and Friedrich Engel. But he has been described by some of his officers as the "right man for the job."

Q&A

Excerpts from an interview with INQUIRER *Northern Luzon Bureau correspondents at the 7th ID headquarters in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija:*

What's the situation in the area covered by the 7th ID since you assumed the post?

There were no big changes except that my arrival has been a thing to the enemy, including the militants. They take the campaign [very seriously.] I've taken over a veteran division (The 7th ID has two brigades and six battalions, with more than 4,000 soldiers while the strength of the New People's Army in the division's area is 1,300 rebels). We are at an advantage.

How do you feel about not being confirmed [by the Commission on Appointments] and what do you plan to do to push your confirmation?

I'm just taking it easy. I'm still the commander of the 7th ID. My worry is that this is a victory of this group of militants. We could easily note their connection [with] the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army). I'm apprehensive [because] it can have a negative effect on the military. It can slow down some of our activities. Hopefully, we can make countermeasures.

As to the effect on my family ... that's not much because I'm still [the] commander. I am judged by the organization. I'm still regarded as an officer ... so I will stay as a commander. It really has no effect on my career.

How do you assess your chances of being confirmed?

I'm optimistic. I'm just worried [about] its effect on us in the military service. If they can that do to an officer, a major general [at that], they can do that to anyone in the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines). If they want to hold my confirmation because they want to shoot down our campaign or our mission, that would be a waste. I want to fight that because [what I'm doing is] for the people.

What is your reaction to being called a *berdugo*?

It is a creation of my enemies, of the enemies of the military. It's a creation because out of my or our activities, they wanted to picture [me] as a brutal, criminal and a person liable of doing illegal things. But I know myself. I am performing my job. Modesty aside, I give credit for what I'm doing. People are [experiencing] better lives. The situation has improved in areas that the AFP has liberated. So that's my satisfaction.

Are you saying you are uncomfortable with the tag?

Occasionally, it is okay but people have the tendency to believe in the propaganda of the militants and the enemy. The enemy has the same line of propaganda. The [CPP-NPA] spokesman Gregorio Rosal has the same words, the same line, the same objective. So to me it seems they are only one, the militants and the CPP-NPA. So their own creation is not the real me. The real me is what I am doing, what I am judged by my obligation and the people.

What's your assessment of the movement?

We've got to hate the movement. We've got to have that fighting stance, that spirit against this communist movement because it is destructive. Hate is a very personal, professional word.

We really consider them the enemy of the state, of the society. So we just have to declare them maybe as an enemy that should not exist. [The CPP-NPA] should be eradicated, it should be eliminated. I think 30 to 50 percent of the misery in our country is partly to be blamed on the communist party.

Is it correct to call you a rabid anticommunist general?

If you want to call me that, that's acceptable ... people have called me a number of terms already so it's just another terminology.

The rebels are few compared to the AFP. There are some groups that make you step a little bit backward? How do you deal with this?

Yes, it is true we are superior in numbers and in resources. We are in the government. We have the upper hand but we are not winning. We have to admit that. The CPP has been here for 35 years. So with this, we really have a job to do.

I'm very practical in my approach to end the insurgency. It is difficult because the enemy is taking advantage of the ills of our society.

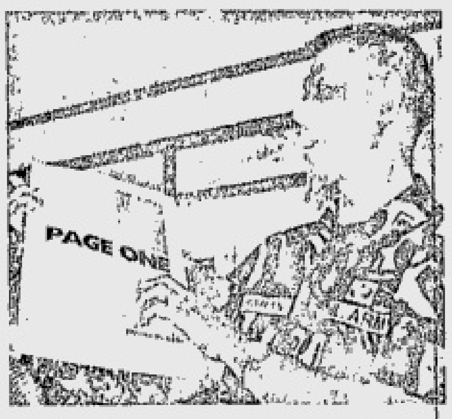
This is what we are fighting: An armed group that is not too big but is effective because it has an intelligence work, which is providing the information and guiding people in their actions against us. This is the support system that they develop among the people.

Trust is being developed [by the soldiers] because we have been distrusted through propaganda. So we have to get back the trust of the people—that is, to present ourselves as real soldiers, not abusive, not brutal, not criminal, and that the government is not antipeople as their propaganda is saying.

The second part is confidence-building with the masses. We need to have the capability, strength, aggressiveness, courage, decisiveness and determination to eliminate the threat. We are the protectors [of the people]. We are also motivating people to defend themselves because the soldiers, the military cannot defend our people all the time, anytime, anywhere.

Given your hard-line stance against the insurgents, do you still have compassion for your enemy?

Very much. It's because I'd like to think most of these people are only victims. To me there are really no real hardliners in their conviction.



MAJ. GEN. Jovito Palparan Jr., 7th ID commander, holds a copy of the INQUIRER's Page One (Book Two) after a roundtable discussion with INQUIRER correspondents.

MELVIN GASCON

Have you ever received any direct threat from the communist party?

Direct and indirect. In the papers, Gregorio Rosal, I don't want to call him Ka Roger. He is not my comrade. *Ka* is *kasama* (comrade), isn't it? He has threatened me very clearly. He had said on radio and in the newspapers that he was after my head. And they're sending a number of hit men coming from Laguna, Batangas. Our men are getting threats from their areas. That's normal.

Human rights groups are saying that anywhere you go, you leave a trail of cases of violations.

I have come out clean. [The two cases] have been dismissed. There has been no single case filed in court yet. Complaints have not prospered [beyond the preliminary investigation stage].

Do you want this image to be retained in the minds of your men? How do you intend to erase this image?

I have no problem with my men or the AFP. We are soldiers. We are trained for this vocation. So we understand each other. That's a job. The soldiers are mature enough to decide on their own.

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Bayan Muna Tarlac office burned

TARLAC CITY—ARMED MEN burned the Tarlac headquarters here of the party-list group Bayan Muna early yesterday, police said.

Reports said between 12 and 15 suspects, who were armed with Armalite rifles, went to the Bayan Muna office at Sitio Buno in Barangay Matatalaib in this city at 1 a.m. Tuesday, doused the office with gasoline and threw a molotov cocktail there to start a fire.

Only the front part of the two-room bungalow that Bayan Muna had been renting was burned as residents in the area immediately put out the fire. Some pieces of office furniture were also burned.

Roman Polintan, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair in Central Luzon, said soldiers under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, were suspected to be behind the attack.

The burning happened two days after Florante Collantes, Bayan Muna secretary general in Tarlac, was shot dead on Saturday in Camiling, north of the city.

Collantes' slaying, the second attack on a Bayan Muna leader in Tarlac this month, was also blamed on Palparan.

> 'We have the authority to terrorize the bad elements of society'

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander, 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army
Sept. 29, 2005

But Palparan denied any hand in the attacks.

"I have nothing to do with the burning [of the Bayan Muna office]," he said.

He said if necessary, the Army would assist in the investigation. "If my men were involved, we will cooperate," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, who went to Tarlac on Tuesday to attend the wake of Collantes and inspect the damage on the party's office, said this was the second Bayan Muna headquarters burned by armed men this year.

He said it was not a coincidence that Palparan was the Army commander in the areas where the attacks took place.

Ocampo said initial assessment revealed a similar pattern when their office in Catbalogan, Samar, was burned in April this year, when Palparan was Army commander in Eastern Visayas.

Ocampo called the attacks on Bayan Muna and other progressive groups as "political repression masquerading as counter-insurgency and antiterrorism operations."

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo assigned Palparan to Central Luzon "with a purpose," despite the general's record of alleged human rights violations.

Ocampo, in a separate statement, urged national and local authorities to "ensure the safety of Bayan Muna leaders, members and offices from further terrorist attacks."

"We may be critical of the government but we do not deserve to be left unprotected from those who seek to harm and liquidate us," he said.

He vowed to continue opposing Palparan's promotion now pending before the Commission on Appointments. "Palparan should be removed from Central Luzon before all hell breaks loose in the region," Ocampo said.

But Palparan said the military could not be considered the only suspect behind the attacks on Bayan Muna members because the group had created its own enemies.

"Also [its] relationship with the New People's Army is not a secret and the NPA has killed and hurt and destroyed people's lives and properties," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Jo Martinez-Clemente and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BOUNTY
A fisherman takes a bite out of a freshly caught fish while his companions harvest fish from their net in Dumaguete City.

EDWIN BACASMAS/PDI PHOTO

Ordeal not over for kidnap victims

COTABATO CITY—The Alcular family of North Cotabato remains unhappy even with the freedom of four-year-old Ralph Ashley Alcular.

Ralph, who was kidnapped by his nanny, Hazel Puala, on Aug. 23 from their home in Kidapawan City, was abandoned by the Pentagon gang when Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members raided the group's hideout in Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao on Oct. 6.

The reason for the family's continued worry was that the family patriarch, Alberto Alcular, remains in the hands of the gang.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said they learned that before Ralph Ashley was freed, the Pentagon has already in its custody the Alcular patriarch.

"Mr. Alcular had a contact with the kidnappers of his grandson. So on Sept. 30, their contact called him through his mobile phone and directed him to go to Sultan sa Barongis because they will turn over to him the boy," Kabalu said.

Alert

He said the 46-year-old Alcular was with a certain Mr. Lim during that time.

"They never returned home after that. We have already alerted our troops in the area to help in the rescue operation," he said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol has urged other officials in Central Mindanao, particularly Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pakung Mangudadatu, to help in the safe recovery of the two victims.

Piñol said there has been no word from the Pentagon yet regarding the condition of the victims.

Mayor Allan Datu Angas of Sultan sa Barongis said he has not monitored any unusual activity in his town for the past weeks.

But he pledged to help in the rescue of the victims if they were brought in his town.

The Pentagon became notorious in south-central Mindanao, including the cities of Cotabato and General Santos, after it went on an abduction spree since the late 1980s. *Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase, Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Subic Bay pollution seen to reach Manila Bay proportions

By Patrick Roxas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—SUBIC BAY IS FACING the possibility of suffering the same fate as the highly polluted Manila Bay if waste discharges and other pollutants thrown into the bay remain unchecked, a Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority official, quoting results of a study on the bay pollution, said.

The official, who asked not to be identified pending the official release of the results, said waste discharges from households and factories in Olongapo City and Subic Bay Freeport are rapidly accumulating in Subic Bay.

He said the government's inaction on the problem could result in the rapid pollution of the bay.

"What this means is that in the next 10 years, we could be seeing a very polluted Subic Bay," the SBMA official said.

"The population of Olongapo and the nearby Subic freeport continues to grow. While we observe a diminishing water supply, what's more alarming is that there is no effort to put up a comprehensive sewerage system for the city such that all wastes and discharges end up in the waters of Subic Bay," he said.

When one goes around the bay in a banca, "you'll see the amount of trash that has accumulated in the bay waters mostly coming from the river channels in the city," he said.

The official said the Subic Water and Sewerage Co. Inc. (Subicwater) has yet to provide a sewerage system for the city, although its franchise agreement gave it the right, privileges and authority to provide water and sewerage services both in the freeport and in Olongapo.

"Technical studies have shown that Subicwater has yet to invest in sewerage infrastructure in the city of Olongapo," he said.

Subicwater officials said the continuing pollution of the bay is a growing problem, but said the preparation of a comprehensive sewerage master plan for the city is ongoing and will be finished before the end of this year.

The plan, according to them, will provide a blueprint for the construction of sewage facilities and will include an assessment of the residents' willingness to pay for such a service.

"At present, city residents are just paying for water services and raising its tariff to such a level to allow Subicwater to recover its costs has been difficult," Jaime Garcia, Subicwater assistant general manager, said.

Subicwater is a joint venture of the SBMA, Olongapo City government, DM Consunji Inc. and Biwater/Cascal, a British firm.

Its franchise included implementing a sewerage system for the two areas.

A former US military facility, the freeport has an existing sewerage system while Olongapo has none.

Garcia told the INQUIRER that they have commissioned a study for the implementation of a sewerage system for Olongapo and a final report is expected before the yearend.

"Based on their tests conducted on the bay waters, the consultants found the capability of our receiving water (Subic Bay) is deteriorating," Garcia said.

New chance given for entry of shrimp variety

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—THE CONTROVERSIAL *vannamei* (Pacific white shrimps) got one more chance at being introduced to the country when another batch of brood stock was brought to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for breeding purposes.

BFAR Research Center chief Westly Rosario said the new brood stock was given a clean bill of health by the bureau and allowed to be brought to the Philippines when samples were found disease-free by the University of Arizona in the United States.

"We assure [the public] that there are no more problems such as those that occurred with the first batch. Everything was done to assure that the stocks are not contaminated, like bringing them from Hawaii through a direct flight. At the center, all corrective measures were done at the hatchery area," Rosario said.

In April this year, the BFAR destroyed some 900 breeders of *vannamei* (*Penaeus vannamei*) brought from Hawaii by a private company after the stocks were found to be positive of some shrimp diseases.

Rosario said the new stocks, which were imported from the Kona Bay Marine Resources in Hawaii, were certified by the University of Arizona as being free from nine pathogens (bacteria and viruses).

The University of Arizona is the recognized reference disease diagnostic laboratory of the US shrimp consortium.

Each of the 1,087 breeders (540 males and 547 females) has a landed cost of $35, Rosario said.

The breeders were imported by the Agrifisheries World Inc., the same company that imported the first batch. The BFAR and the company entered into a memorandum of agreement that called for the company to shoulder all expenses for the breeding program and the BFAR to extend technical assistance.

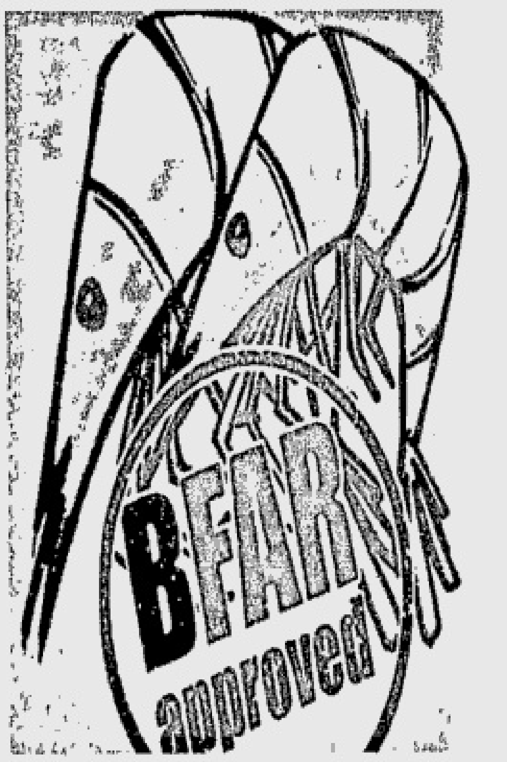
"From the breeding program, we will be developing an industry for the fishermen. *Vannamei* could be the third most important species that will be cultured in the country, next to *bangus* and *tilapia*," Rosario said.

He said the BFAR would start field-testing the culture of *vannamei* in different areas of the country. The BFAR and Agrifisheries World will sell larvae to accredited fishermen who must comply with laws and environmental regulations.

The result of the field tests will be the basis of a decision whether the prohibition on the importation of *vannamei* for culture in the country will be lifted.

After several experiments and the species prove to be disease-free, it will be the BFAR center that will handle the *vannamei* program, Rosario said.

"We hope to make a 'road map' for the *vannamei* industry from the experiments, and if successful, it will be in Dagupan where all industry of *vannamei* will start," he said.



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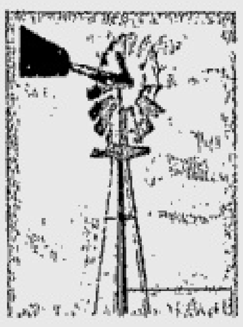
DA to push through windmill tests



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Despite claims by militant organizations here that the use of windmills for farm irrigation would not work, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is pushing through with testing windmills in southern Pampanga.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban announced during a dialogue on Wednesday in nearby Mexico town that windmills would be tested in running irrigation pumps.

Earlier, Francisco Mangulabnan, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Pampanga, said although they support the use of windmills, such environmentally-sound technology will work only in windy provinces like Aurora and Quezon.

"Pampanga is not a windy place. Windmills work only in windy places ... I have seen many windmills that do not work because of the absence of strong winds," he said.

Panganiban said the construction and operation of windmills would be in accordance with Malacañang's thrust for the public and private sectors to tap alternative, cheaper energy sources.

He said the use of windmills is a joint project of the DA and the Philippine Rice Research Institute based in the Science City of Muñoz.

Aside from windmills, the government is pushing for the use of alternative fuel like biodiesel and ethanol. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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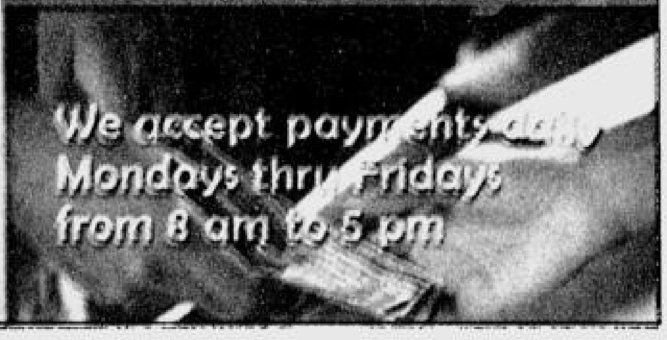

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Man with a gun seen on video boosting Palace stand

By Christine O. Avendaño

A MAN WITH A GUN CAUGHT on video as police were hosing down a prayer rally near Mendiola last week is providing ammunition to Malacañang in its efforts to justify its crackdown on dissenters and placate angry church critics.

The footage showed the man in a white shirt carrying an umbrella moving forward as policemen were spraying water jets on the demonstrators. He was seen dropping his handgun, then picking it up and darting back to the crowd of drenched demonstrators.

Police officials led by Director General Arturo Lomibao presented the police report on Friday's incident, including the video footage, to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet yesterday.

After watching the film, the President directed police to identify the man and to release the footage to media, said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"She said, 'Let's show the footage to the people to show that the actions of the police were not unjustified,'" Ermita told reporters.

Ermita said that he hoped the footage would be run on television so that everyone could view them, including the bishops and even El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

"We hope that the bishops and Brother Mike would understand that there was a reason why the incident happened," Ermita said.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Jamby Madrigal, Rep. Satur Ocampo, Bishops Deogracias Iniguez, Antonio Tobias and Julio Xavier Labayen, and leftwing groups and priests led the procession near Mendiola. They had come from Plaza Miranda for a prayer rally that was to end at the San Beda Chapel. No serious injuries were reported in the police drenching.

On Monday, Velarde, the President's spiritual adviser, joined the bishops in condemning the water attack. In his first criticism of Ms Arroyo, Velarde warned that the crackdown on dissenters was fueling political instability that began in June over allegations Ms Arroyo stole last year's election. Last month, Ms Arroyo escaped an impeachment attempt in Congress.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Vidal Querol said Ms Arroyo "was surprised why a man coming from the ranks of the protesters was carrying a gun."

Querol stressed that under Batas Pambansa No. 880, policemen are not allowed to carry guns in a rally and this should be the case for demonstrators as well.

"Before we can start an investigation we want to know who is this man," Querol said.

"My appeal to the leaders of the rally is to tell us who is this man?" he said, saying it is their responsibility.

All the police know, Querol said was that the man came from the "rowdy" ranks of demonstrators, not from the Guingona's flanks.

Querol declined to identify the man who provided the video for security reasons. But he also acknowledged that some policemen were filmed the event.

Also yesterday, Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the Manila police was set to file criminal charges against leaders of Friday's prayer rally. He said police had strong evidence to support charges of illegal assembly and violations of city ordinances against them.

Ocampo, leader of the leftist Bayan Muna, said that if the Palace was making an issue out of the armed man, he could say that there were many instances that the police violated the no-gun policy on rallies. He said in a rally on Oct. 4 rally near Mendiola he had confronted a policeman carrying an M-16 rifle. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Margaux C. Ortiz, Tina G. Santos, Blanche S. Rivera and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Twas Jamby's bodyguard

By TJ Burgonio

OPPOSITION SEN. JAMBY Madrigal last night said that the man caught on video with a gun during last Friday's rally dispersal was her bodyguard.

Madrigal said that Rey Nanale was one of two bodyguards who accompanied her to the prayer rally on Friday. She said Nanale was assigned by the Senate to her security detail.

"During the dispersal, I was trampled upon. I got pinned down under five bodies. So he [Natale] went through the crowd to extract me. That's when the gun fell," she said in an interview. "He was just there to help me get up. Any decent man would have done that."

The senator said she had beefed up her security after getting death threats since she started her campaign against illegal logging and mining.

Asked if she would bring Nanale to the police, Madrigal said: "They should tell me what law he has violated. Because it seems we're living under martial law."

"This is a non-issue. Why did they release the footage three days after the rally?" she said. "This is nothing but a Marcosian tactic to intimidate someone like me who is fighting for the truth."

It's final: VAT law legal; takes effect Nov. 1

From page A1

The VAT law allows the President to raise the tax rate to 12 percent in January next year from the existing 10 percent. It also increases the corporate income tax from 32 percent to 35 percent for three years.

Exemptions lifted

Other previously VAT-exempt products and services now covered by the tax include coal, natural gas and other indigenous fuels; electric cooperatives; highway toll fees; domestic air and sea transport; medical and legal services; cotton, cotton seeds and non-food agricultural products; and works of art, literary works and musical compositions.

Malacañang welcomed the Supreme Court decision.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said the expected additional revenues from the VAT law would help the government put its fiscal house in order and promote a better economic environment.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang would implement the tax measure as soon as possible even in the face of the lingering political crisis. The government wants the tax measure in place preferably before the year ends.

Expect more rallies

"We are preparing for more rallies, especially with the implementation of the VAT. We're confident that with proper information dissemination, the public will come to understand the need to raise taxes," Ermita said.

He appealed to the government's critics to give the new tax a chance. "Medicines are normally not always sweet, just like VAT," Ermita said.

The opposition slammed the VAT law. "This is a sad day for Filipinos. There will be a marriage of two crises—the political and economic," Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said.

"This is a deadly combination," said Suplico, one of two members of the House minority who filed a bill seeking to repeal the VAT law.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, one of those who sought an injunction against the tax measure in the Supreme Court, said an added tax burden was the last thing Filipinos needed during these times when oil prices were at an all-time high and workers' minimum wages had yet to be increased substantially.

"This is only highlighting the insensitivity of the government," he said.

Salary increase

But the chair of the House committee on appropriations said the new law would generate the needed revenues for the administration's budget for 2006.

"Its implementation will be the backbone of the P1-trillion 2006 budget. This includes the P15-billion allocation for salary increases of government employees," said Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said borrowing costs for the national government, along with those of consumers, would likely fall despite VAT-induced price increases.

"This means that the government will have healthier finances, which will translate to lower borrowing costs for us," he said.

Half solved

The Makati Business Club (MBC) said the country's fiscal crisis remained only "half solved," stressing that it could only be finally put to rest when the new taxes had been "well spent."

"The VAT law only addresses the revenue side," MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said in an interview. "The long-term benefits of this law will be determined by how the money is spent."

The MBC, the umbrella organization of the country's biggest business interests, has called on Ms Arroyo to resign in the wake of poll fraud allegations against her.

Another large business organization echoed MBC's stand on the controversial law, while urging its member firms to undertake "mitigating measures" to minimize the impact of the new tax on consumer prices.

"We need the VAT law for the economy to improve," said Donald Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The group is composed mainly of small-and medium-sized businesses, most of which have little recourse but to pass the higher taxes onto consumers.

July 1 freeze order

The Supreme Court froze the tax measure on July 1, hours after it came into force, as the justices weighed a series of legal motions filed by opponents of the VAT law.

Groups opposed to the measure filed another challenge with the court after its Sept. 1 decision that said the VAT law was constitutional.

GMA's standby authority

Those who questioned the constitutionality of the tax law were Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Escudero, petroleum dealers, the Abakada Guro party-list group and Bataan Gov. Enrique T. Garcia.

The opposition lawmakers said the standby authority of the President under the VAT law was unconstitutional because it constituted undue delegation of legislative authority.

Unsigned ruling

The dealers had asked the tribunal to declare unconstitutional some of the provisions of the VAT law, including the 70-percent cap on the creditable input VAT, the 60-month amortization of input VAT on goods costing more than P1 million, and the 5-percent final withholding VAT on gross payments by government agencies on their purchases.

Asked how the justices voted, Khan said it was safe to assume that the majority voted to dismiss the motions for reconsideration because the resolution was "unsigned."

Dissenting opinions

Of the 15 justices, only Associate Justices Dante Tinga and Consuelo Ynares-Santiago filed their respective dissenting opinions to the resolution.

Khan said there were 11 dissenting opinions on some of the provisions of the tax law, but the objections did not muster the eight votes needed for any provision to be stricken down as unconstitutional.

On the argument of the petitioners that granting the President the power to raise the tax rate from 10 percent to 12 percent starting Jan. 1 constituted "undue delegation of legislative authority," the court said: "There is no merit in this contention."

The Supreme Court noted that the "the secretary of finance is not acting as an alter ego of the President or even her subordinate" in making the recommendation to increase taxes on certain conditions.

"He is acting as an agent of the legislative department, to determine and declare the event upon which its expressed will is to take effect. The (DOF) secretary becomes the means or tools by which legislative policy is determined and implemented," the court said.

No undue delegation

With this provision, the court said, "Congress does not abdicate its functions or unduly delegate power when it describes what job must be done, who must do it and what is the scope of authority..."

"There is no undue delegation of legislative power but only of the discretion as to the execution of the law. This is constitutionally permissible. Congress does not delegate the power to tax but the mere implementation of the law," the court said.

Under the law, the President can exercise the standby power only when VAT collection as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) of the previous year exceeds 2.8 percent and when the deficit as a percentage of GDP of the previous year exceeds 1.5 percent.

On the petition of Garcia that the additional tax burden on consumers would make the tax law "unconstitutional for being arbitrary, oppressive and inequitable," the court said that although it recognizes the added burden to consumers, it "cannot strike down the law as unconstitutional simply because of its yokes."

"The legislature has spoken and the only role that the court plays in the picture is to determine whether the law was passed with due regard to the mandates of the Constitution. Inasmuch as the court finds that there are no constitutional infirmities with its passage, the validity of the law must therefore be upheld," the tribunal said.

Glitch

On the argument of petroleum dealers that the implementation of the VAT law could result in their closure, the court said the "glitch" in their argument was that the losses they presented to the court were "based on an event that is yet to happen."

How the law would affect an entrepreneur would depend on how "one manages and operates its business," the Supreme Court said.

"Market forces, strategy and acumen dictate their moves. With or without these VAT provisions, an entrepreneur who does not have the ken to adapt to economic variables will surely perish in the competition," the court said.

With these arguments, the court said, "the motions for reconsideration are hereby denied with finality. The temporary restraining order issued by the court is lifted."

Deferment

Ermita said the government had no plans to defer expansion of the VAT on power and fuel as suggested by some sectors to lessen the burden on consumers.

But should Congress vote to amend the VAT law and temporarily exempt power and fuel from the tax, Ermita said Malacañang would have no choice but to comply.

"The executive branch has always been of the position that we should first implement laws that have been approved by law before we postpone it," Ermita said.

With reports from Daxim L. Lucas, Norman Bordadora and Michelle V. Remo

Prices of utilities, health care, etc. to soar

From page A1

10 times since the start of the year, will further rise to P455.37-P521.37 per 11-kg cylinder from the present range of P422 to P482.

- ELECTRICITY. Based on the September billing of Manila Electric Co., at an average of P7.30 per kilowatt hour, consumers would have to pay an additional 58 centavos per kWh on average, said Ivanna de la Peña, Meralco vice president and Utility Economics head. This assumes the removal of the 2-percent franchise tax.
- TRANSPORT FARES. The Superferry, which charges P1,680 for a Manila-Cebu ticket, will increase to P1,848 while a Manila-Davao ticket will cost up to P2,321 from P2,110.

Philippine Airlines charges P3,048 for its Manila-Cebu flight. This will rise to P3,353. Its Manila-Davao route will cost P4,200 from the current P3,818.

- HIGHWAY TOLLS. To reflect the tax, the toll fee for a car traveling from Alabang, Muntinlupa City, to the Nichols toll plaza in Pasay City (and vice versa) is expected to go up from P55 to P60.50.
- HOSPITAL BILLS. A pediatrician, who asked not to be named, said patients, not doctors, would bear the brunt of the additional tax.

The increase in hospital bills and laboratory fees may force poor patients to go to cheaper health centers with inferior quality of service, the pediatrician said.

A lawyer said the effect of the tax on legal services would depend on the law firm.

Audrey Zaens of the Quasha Ancheta Peña and Nolasco Law Office said the law firm could choose to shoulder the additional tax. But she said some lawyers were appealing to have legal services exempted from VAT. *Maricar Tolosa and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research, and Abigail Ho, Business*

US to deport Jimenez back to RP on Nov. 21

From page A1

Nov. 21. He is scheduled to arrive in Manila via KE flight 621 on Nov. 22 at 10:55 a.m.

He will have no US escorts, Diaz said.

Nani Perez

Jimenez's freedom and return to the Philippines are expected to revive the $2-million extortion case he had filed against former Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez. The case is now in the Office of the Ombudsman.

"I think he will pursue that case; he will not let Nani off the hook," a friend of Jimenez's told the INQUIRER.

Jimenez had accused Perez of extorting $2 million from him, ostensibly to approve a power deal with the Argentine firm Impsa.

He had also claimed to have given checks worth P8 million to the Lualhati Foundation of Ms Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Former Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama had likewise said that on Ms Arroyo's orders, he collected P18 million from Jimenez for the foundation.

Jimenez's friend, who had asked not to be named, said the former congressman had "put everything behind" him except for his case against Perez.

Perez lost his job because of Jimenez's accusation.

Public office

Jimenez has been rumored to be planning to run for mayor of Manila in 2007, but his friend said Jimenez's family was objecting to the idea.

But Jimenez could very well seek public office because he had not run afoul of Philippine laws, the friend said. "His record was in the United States, so there is no problem here, he can run."

After vigorously fighting his extradition, Jimenez flew out of the Philippines on Dec. 26, 2002, and subjected himself to US laws.

Although accompanied by several Filipino congressmen, he was handcuffed on the flight that took him to a facility in Agana, Guam, before being flown to Miami, Florida.

While his case was being heard, Jimenez was allowed to stay in a private apartment. But he was fitted with an electronic bracelet that would have sounded the alarm had he skipped Florida.

It turned out that after sentencing, he was detained in a Pennsylvania prison.

Jimenez was disqualified as representative of Manila's 6th district in early 2003 for vote-buying. In November 2003, he was convicted of electoral fraud by the Southern District Court of Miami.

The court sentenced him to 27 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to election conspiracy and tax evasion charges. He was also ordered to pay $1.2 million in fines.

Jimenez started serving his sentence on Jan. 5, 2004, as approved by the Miami court, which gave consideration for the Christmas holidays and his birthday on Dec. 31.

Illegal contributions

US prosecutors had said that Jimenez made illegal contributions of about $41,500 and caused false information to be submitted to the Federal Election Commission. US law forbids foreigners from making contributions to election campaigns.

Jimenez used money from his Miami company and a closely related company to reimburse employees for illegal donations to former US President Bill Clinton and other Democrats.

He moved back to the Philippines after Clinton was caught up in a series of fund-raising scandals.

Jimenez also admitted before the US court that he used a Uruguayan company to funnel $5 million out of the United States.

From 1994 to 1996, Jimenez gave contributions to Clinton, US Senators Edward Kennedy and Robert Torricelli, US Senate candidates Roger Bedford of Alabama and Thomas Strickland of Colorado, and US House candidate Ann Henry of Arkansas.

Nov. 1 and 4 . . .

From page A1

tive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

But Friday, Nov. 4, is a holiday.

Asked why, Ermita said that it was so Filipinos would have a longer weekend.

Other holidays in '05

For the rest of the year, the following are nonworking holidays as contained in Proclamation Order No. 839 which was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last May but reissued by the Palace yesterday: Nov. 28 and Dec. 26, the Monday following Christmas Day, but Bonifacio Day on Nov. 30 was designated a working day.

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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10-19

Boy meets alleged kidnappers

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

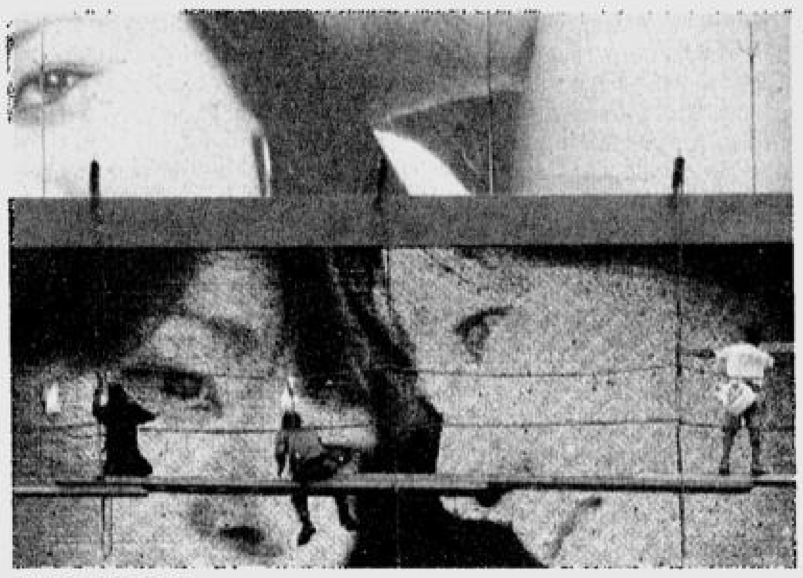
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL months, a three-year-old Filipino-Chinese boy came face to face with his alleged kidnappers, including actor and former congressman Dennis Roldan, at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court yesterday.

ROLDAN

The boy cried when he saw his alleged abductors seated on the front row. "*Ayaw ko na. Ayaw ko na,*" (No more, no more), he told his father as he shook his head, covering his face with both hands.

Prosecution witness PO3 Christine Prado, of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, said she saw the boy inside the alleged safe house of Roldan's group during a surveillance operation. "He is still scared," said Roger Yu, the victim's father.

The prosecution presented yesterday a surveillance video Prado made on Feb. 18 of a house on Zamboanga Street, West Avenue, Quezon City. The video showed the victim taking a bath with two other boys assisted by accused Noel San Andres and his wife Rowena. Prado corroborated the testimony of Senior Insp. Aldrin Juaneza, another Pacer operative, who said earlier that Roldan entered the house on the afternoon of Feb. 17. But Roldan's lawyer, Siegfrid Fortun, asked why Prado had not submitted written reports of her surveillance mission. Prado said she sent the information by text message to her superiors who wrote the official report. Apart from Roldan (real name: Mitchell Gumabao) and the San Andres couple, four others had been charged with kidnapping, including Romeo Orcajada, Adrian Domingo, and Octavio Garces. Roldan's alleged girlfriend, Suzette Wang, also suspected to have masterminded the kidnapping with the actor, remains at large.



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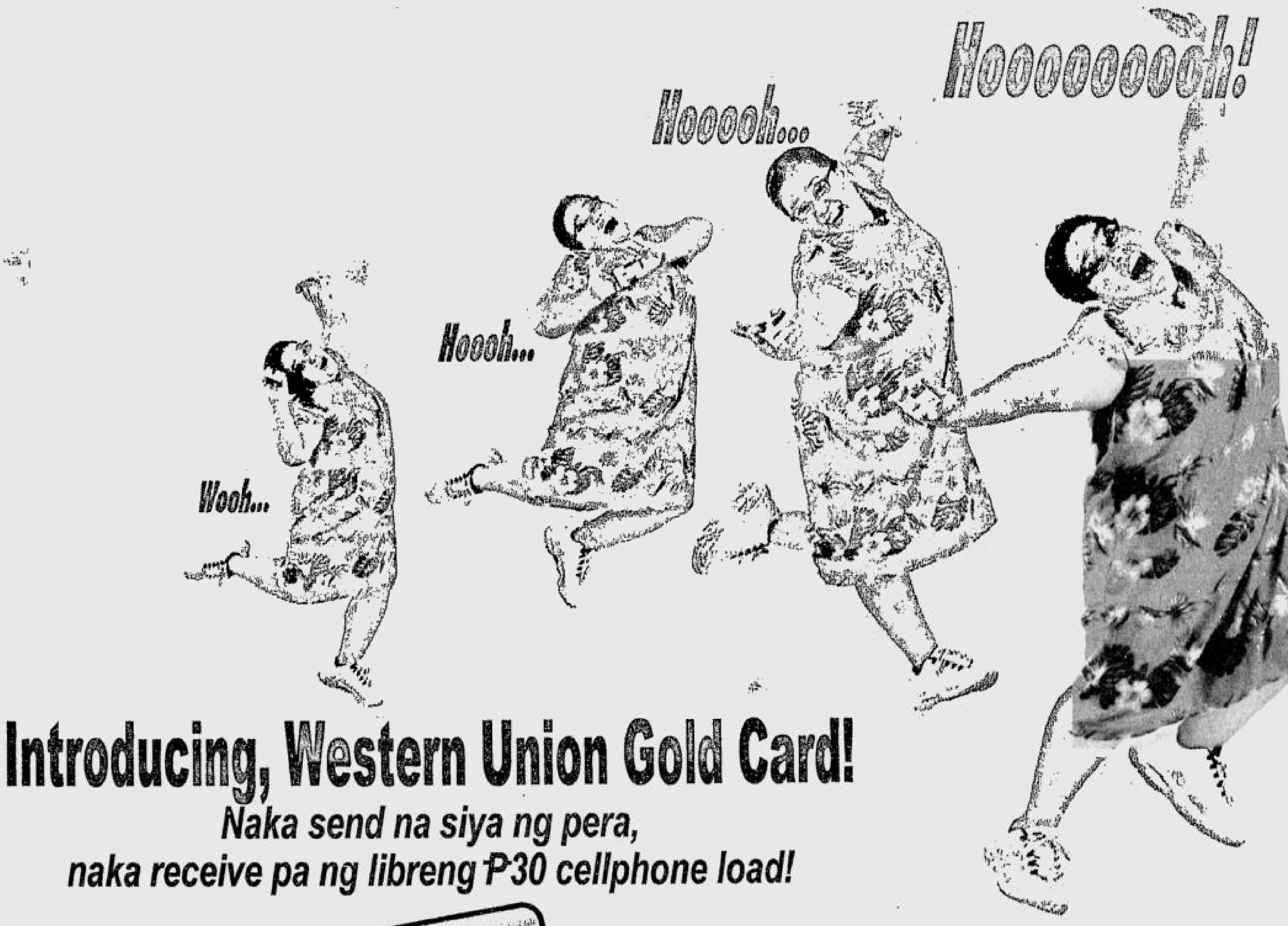
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Deadly fall

BEFORE the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Rizal Province closed on Monday night, shoe factory worker Renato Huerto Jr. got up the fourth floor and allegedly jumped off. Huerto, 33, crashed on the ground floor, shocking shoppers who were going out of the mall, Cainta police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz said. Security guards rushed the victim to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City, but he did not make it alive. Police said they found letters to the victim from his company, the Mano Shoe Manufacturing Corp., inside his bag. The letters reportedly asked Huerto to explain 441 pairs of shoes worth P800,000 which were unaccounted for, and also asked for his resignation. Cainta Police declared the incident as an alleged case of suicide. An investigation is ongoing to determine if the letters had "any connection to the alleged suicide," the report added. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Cheap movies

MOVIEGOERS in Manila have until today to avail of the 50 percent discount in ticket prices of local digital films showing at the 7th Cinemanila Film Festival. From the original ticket price of P100, the tickets are being sold for only P50. Mayor Lito Atienza said the city government decided to slash the price of tickets to draw bigger crowds. "We wanted to encourage more moviegoers, especially students, to watch quality films and patronize our very own. This is our way of helping the local film industry especially in these trying times," Atienza said, adding that he envisions reviving the grandeur of the local movie industry. The eight local films featured in the 13-day run of Cinemanila are "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre," "Ang Daan Patungo sa Kalimugtong," "Tuli," "Cut," "Ilusyon," "Dilim," "Trabaho," and "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John." With the theme "Buhayin ang Pelikulang Pilipino," Cinemanila aims to support independent, innovative and quality local films as well as budding and aspiring filmmakers. Under Atienza's administration, the City Council reduced amusement taxes from 30 to 15 percent. The mayor said he was even willing to scrap the taxes if theater owners would reconsider his proposal to slash ticket prices for local movies. *Tina G. Santos*

Missing boy found

POLICE yesterday finally recovered the body of an 11-year-old boy two days after he and his friend drowned in a swollen creek in Mandaluyong City. The body of Mark Anthony Bernardino was recovered at about 6 a.m. in Sta. Ana, Manila, Barangay Addition Hills official Nonoy Gojo told the INQUIRER. Bernardino's body was identified by his parents, he added. The body of Bernardino's friend John Ray Manatad, 10, was found earlier near the Arroceros Pumping Station in Manila the other day. Bernardino and Manatad were playing on Maytunas Creek that runs across Shaw Boulevard on Sunday afternoon with another friend Adrian Taghoy, 9, at the height of heavy rains. The two victims were on board a piece of styrofoam floating on the creek when the water suddenly rose because of the downpour. "*Bigla na lang silang nawala sa tubig,* (They suddenly disappeared in the water)," said Taghoy who did not join his friends on the styrofoam. Taghoy survived with only wounds on his right foot. Barangay officials in Addition Hills, where the three boys live, said they usually field patrol teams to prevent children from playing by the creek. "But we cannot always monitor the entire stretch," barangay watchman Alex Pagaduan said.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NBI goes after 49 PAIRTF agents

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE BELEAGUERED CHIEF OF the defunct Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) has temporarily stopped the operations of his "new" task force following accusations of usurpation of authority and qualified bribery against him and his men.

This developed as the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) announced the investigation of 49 more PAIRTF agents performing "unauthorized operations." Eleven others from the task force had been accused earlier of extortion, but former PAIRTF chief, Reynaldo Jaylo, said the complainant was a suspected to be an illegal recruiter "who only wanted to destroy our credibility."

"Victims of illegal recruitment have been complaining to us, but we had to turn down their requests for help because we still have to clear our names," said Jaylo, now Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) director. Jaylo is facing charges for the unauthorized hiring of intelligence officers who were arrested in an entrapment operation last week, according to the NBI.

NBI Interpol Division chief and spokesperson Ricardo Diaz said Jaylo did not have any authority to appoint intelligence officers, who had "nonexistent positions."

He also stressed that the PAIRTF's mandate had expired last July 9, a year after it was created under Executive Order No. 325. Jaylo, however, said they were still supposed to go after illegal recruiters under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and POEA's Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (AIRTF).

He added that since the PAIRTF's abolition last July, his intelligence officers had been helping "volunteers."

Diaz, however, said that they would continue to establish evidence that the task force's remaining operatives "are still performing unauthorized operations."

"We have even received reports that the task force members are now in hiding and have even burned their arrest and booking sheet reports," Diaz said.

The NBI spokesperson added that apart from illegally appointing "intelligence officers," Jaylo had also issued identification cards and memorandum receipts for his men's firearms.

An NBI source said the task force has 49 other operatives, including policemen and civilian intelligence officers.

"We are inviting other complainants to the NBI so they could identify the other suspects assigned to the task force," Diaz said.

Apart from filing usurpation of authority charges against Jaylo at the. Department of Justice on Monday, the NBI had also filed additional complaints of qualified bribery and illegal possession of firearms against four policemen and seven intelligence officers.

The 11 were arrested recently in an entrapment operation by the NBI's Intelligence Special Operations Division and Special Task Force.

Navotas dump reopens after fishers' blockade crumbles

By Blanche S.Rivera

SOME 700 TONS OF GARBAGE from Navotas and Manila were brought the other day to the dump in Tanza, Navotas whose operation was temporarily stopped by strong opposition from residents of nearby Obando, Bulacan.

After six months, police were able to break the fishermen's blockade in the Binuangan River and escort the barge carrying garbage.

The barge passed the river around 9 a.m. following two hours of alleged harassment of protesters by some policemen, some of them in civilian clothes.

"They threatened to fire at us and even gestured that they would shoot the protesters in the head if we continued to block the barge," Pamalakaya-Bulacan chair Ricardo de Armas said in a phone interview.

He said the police came on three big boats around 7 a.m. and demolished a boat docked at Binuangan River as a symbol of the fishermen's blockade.

Pamalakaya members had successfully blocked garbage-carrying barges since April 30. The group was seeking the closure of the Tanza dump operated by the Philippine Ecology Systems Inc. because it had no environmental compliance certificate.

The municipality of Obando, Bulacan, which is near the Phileco dump, passed an ordinance prohibiting the dumping of trash on the site. This forced Navotas and Manila to find other dumps for their trash.

Phileco, however, secured a temporary restraining order from Malolos Judge Alexander P. Tamayo on Oct. 6, giving Navotas and Manila 20 days to use the Tanza dump.

"We will continue to fight the dumping in Tanza. We will resume our blockade," De Armas vowed.

PNP-TMG head goes on leave

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE National Police-Traffic Management Group (PNP-TMG) has gone on a leave of absence as his office seemed unable to curb the high incidence of car thefts in Metro Manila.

In some cases, victims were either killed or wounded.

The PNP Command Group, the police's highest body, allowed Chief Supt. Ricardo Quinto to go on leave, according to Deputy Director Gen. Oscar Calderon, the deputy chief for administration.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Quinto for comment. His office said he had taken a 15-day emergency leave. Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan Jr., former deputy chief for administration of the National Capital Region Police Office, was named officer in charge of the traffic group.

The PNP-TMG, which is responsible for solving car thefts, had been criticized for its failure to arrest a group of armed men suspected of staging a series of car thefts and car hijackings in the city.

Officials have not discounted the possibility that policemen could be involved in the crimes. The PNP ordered ground commanders to stop all vehicles using sirens and flashers and watch out for policemen loitering in areas where a car theft or hijacking had been reported.

The group's modus operandi included the use of sirens and flashers to stop victims. Suspects had also been noted wearing police or military uniforms.

Angcanan advised motorists to be watchful and, if they suspected they were being followed, to drive to the nearest police station immediately.

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Mama Sita
ANG SARAP SIGURONG MAGING NANAY SI MAMA SITA. ANG DAMI MONG MATUTUTUNAN, HINDI LANG SA MGA ULAM...
ANG MASARAP NA BANGUS, 'YUNG MALIIT ANG ULO AT MAIKSI ANG BUNTOT.
KUNDI PATI SA NEGOSYO...
SA PAGGAWA NG TURON, ANG BIBILHIN MONG SAGING, 'YUNG HINOG NA HINOG NA, MAS MASARAP NA ANG TURON, MAS MAKAKATIPID PA.
ANG DAMI MONG MAGIGING KAIBIGAN, LALO NA SA PALENGKE...
O... AYAN NA SI MAMA SITA, SIGURADONG MAUUBOS ANG PANINDA NATIN...
MAMA SITA, PAKYAWIN MO NA ITONG MGA SAGING NA SABA KO!
OO SIGE, AKIN NA ANG TATLONG BUWIG. 'YUNG SUPER HINOG, HA, PANGTURON.
ANG DAMI MONG BIGLAANG MARARATING...
SAAN PO TAYO, MA'M?
PUNTA TAYONG TAGAYTAY. BIBILI LANG AKO NG PINYA.
AT HIGIT SA LAHAT, ANG DAMI MONG MATITIKMANG MASASARAP NA PAGKAIN...
TIKMAN MO NGA ITONG NILUTO KONG CALDERETA, APO...
ANG SARAP!!
KAYA TALAGANG MASARAP MAGING MOMMY SI MAMA SITA.
MABUTI NA LANG, MAY MGA MAMA SITA'S MIXES AND SAUCES NA, PARA LAHAT TAYO SA BUONG PILIPINAS, MAKAKATIKIM KUNG PAANO MAGMAHAL...
MAGLAMBING...
MAGSAYA KAPILING ANG ATING MAMA SITA.
Pamanang Sarap sa Bawat Pamilya
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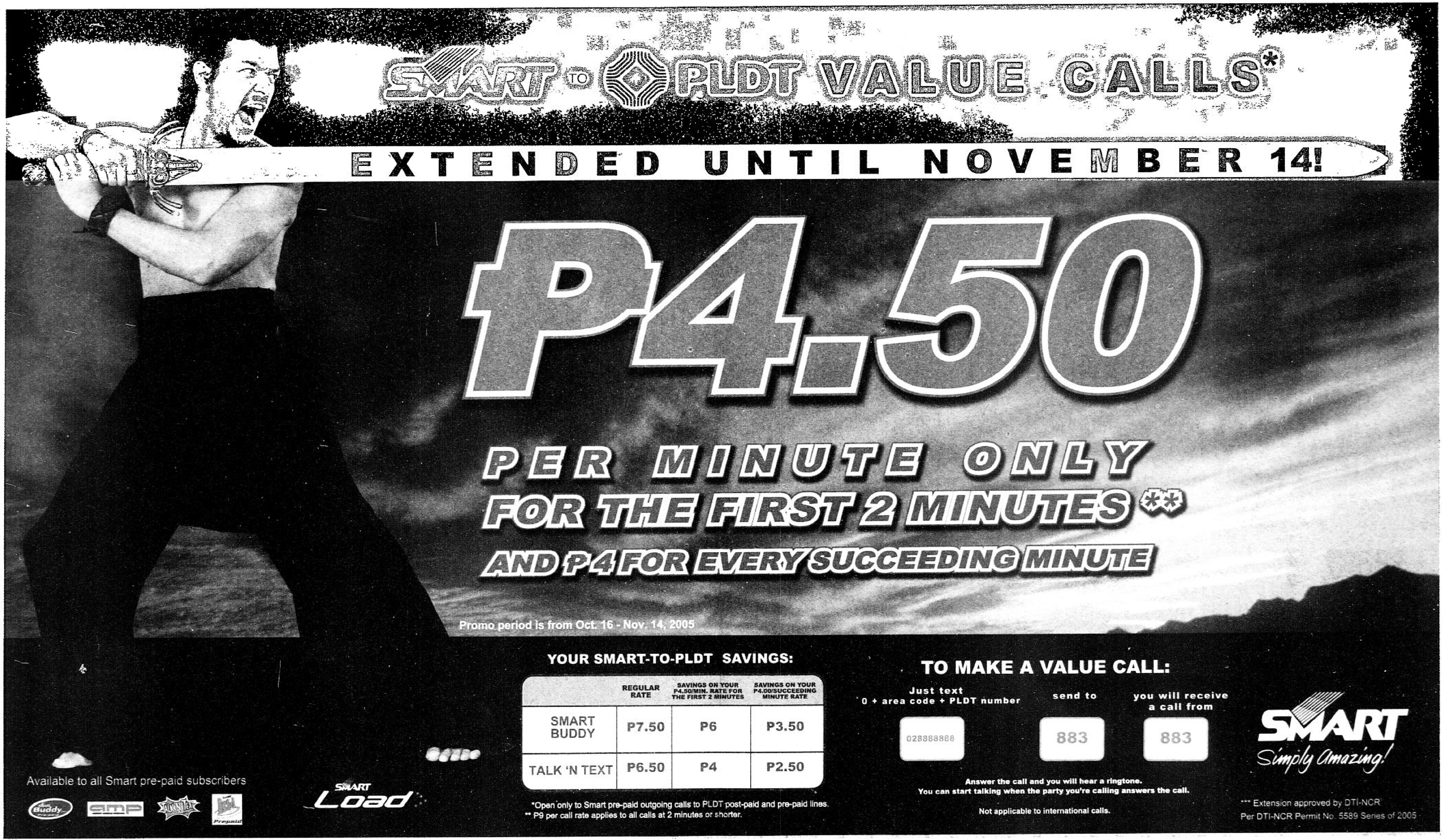
TERESITA MAMASITA REYES



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DLSU admits: Not 1, but 2, unfit Archers

DepEd confirms Inquirer report

By Jasmine W. Payo

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY CONFIRMED YESTERDAY THE INquirer's exclusive report that two ineligible players were fielded during the Green Archers' 2004 UAAP championship run and pledged to expand its investigation to get to the bottom of the controversy.

GATCHALIAN

BENITEZ

The confirmation came after La Salle received a letter from the Department of Education yesterday stating that another member of the 2004 champion squad submitted falsified school records.

The letter came just as an investigative panel formed by the school was interviewing Mark Benitez, who finally came out in the open yesterday to air his side of the story.

Benitez was the first player identified as having submitted a fake Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate (PEPTCR) to gain entry in to the school and to the team.

The school refused to release details of the Benitez interview.

Again, La Salle did not disclose the second cager's name. But the statement also verified the INQUIRER report, saying that "the player is not in the active roster this season, but is currently enrolled."

After the INQUIRER broke the story on the second ineligible player last Sunday, however, Internet message boards tagged point guard Tim Gatchalian as the other player.

Gatchalian and Benitez both came from Jose Rizal University and suited up for the Archers in 2003 after undergoing a one-year residency.

"We are expanding the scope of the investigation to include this case," said Lito Tanjuatco, a member of the four-man committee investigating the eligibility scandal.

The letter from the DepEd stated that another player's PEPTCR "has turned out to be spurious."

The statement added that La Salle received a letter from the DepEd on Aug. 18 affirming that the document of yet another player "was still subject to verification."

"DLSU reiterates its determination to get to the bottom of this case so we could institute appropriate remedies for the future," the statement read.

The admission of the second player further gave rise to concerns that other parties were involved in facilitating the two players' documents.

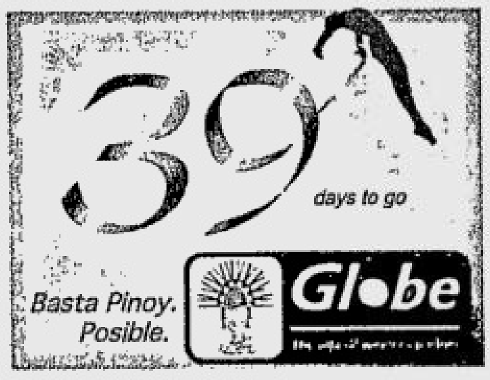
"I do not believe that these players concerned are capable of falsifying their own papers," said UAAP technical committee chair Ricky Palou, who had earlier batted for an investigation of all the schools' team rosters in the last 10 years.

Palou also said that "the [National Bureau of Investigation] should start looking into this because this is already a public document we are talking about."

A source from a leading television station had earlier revealed that the parents of Benitez were ready to reveal the name of a former member of the La Salle coaching staff who facilitated the papers. *With a report from Musong Castillo*

Wrestling finds home

ALL ACCOUNTED FOR. EACH OF THE 41 sports disciplines for the Southeast Asian Games next month already has venues, including previously "homeless" wrestling. Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza said yesterday he will secure a permit for the use of the San Andres Gym as the venue for wrestling. The RP wrestlers, credited for four gold medals during the Vietnam SEAG two years ago, are currently training in Mongolia. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



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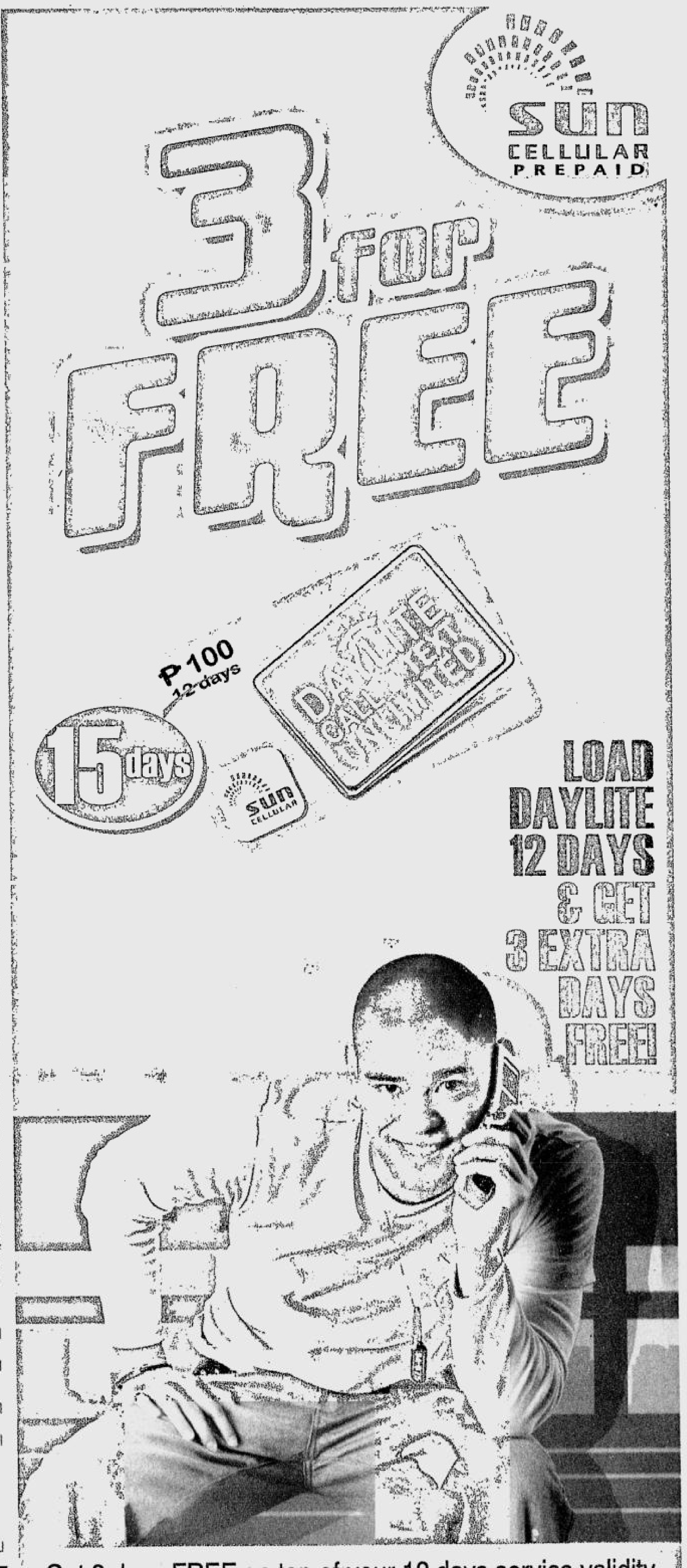

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SLR ditches Whitehead

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GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Alaska
7:25 p.m.—TNT vs SLR

LUKE WHITEHEAD DID WHAT HE HAD TO do to give Sta. Lucia a 2-1 (win-loss) record. In fact, he could easily shore up the Realtors' title campaign.

But with the need to beef up its frontline and with big man Dennis Espino hurting, Sta. Lucia had no choice but to sideline the rapper-import for its clash with Talk 'N Text tonight in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Leonard White, who reinforced Purefoods during the 2002 Governors Cup, takes over Whitehead's slot, giving the Realtors added muscle in their quest for a third straight victory and a shot at being the first team to put a stain on the Phone Pals' clean slate.

"We want to match up not only with the frontline of Talk 'N Text but with the other bigger teams as well," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua of their move to replace the hot-shooting Whitehead with a 6-foot-6 bruiser.

Whitehead, a 6-foot-5 slasher and shooter rolled into one, erupted for 35 points against the Coca-Cola Tigers in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, and helped the Realtors defeat the Barangay Ginebra Kings more than a week ago.

But with Espino still recuperating from an injured sheen, the Realtois need another inside operator to complement the 6-foot-9 Marlou Aquino.

White teamed up with Derrick Brown during the elimination round of the Purefoods Chunkee Giants' title run in the 2002 Governors. White, however, was sidelined due to a knee ailment, and Kelvin Price replaced him in the semifinals of the same tournament.

In the curtain-raiser, Barangay Ginebra aims to follow up its conquest of Red Bull Barako when the Kings go up against the Alaska Aces. Tied for third with the Realtors (2-1), the Kings are looking to inflict a third straight setback on the highly favored Aces.

June Navarro

ELASTO PAINTERS
ACCEL welcoat
St. Benilde
Rain or Shine

RODEL ROTONI

WELCOAT REINVENTED: Welcoat team manager Boy Lapid, chair and CEO Carlo Quivada, basketball operations officer Leo Austria, Terry Que, Raymond Que, Caloy Garcia, Bernard Atienza and PBL chair Chito Loyzaga present the new Welcoat squad.

A fighting crew, Rain or Shine, in PBL wars

By Jasmine W. Payo

EVEN WITH THE DEPARTURE OF KEY players Anthony Washington and Leo Najorda to the pro ranks, coach Caloy Garcia believes that his Welcoat Paint Masters remain a strong contender for the 2006 Heroes Cup in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL).

"The difference this year is that we'll be relying on teamwork, rather than individual talent," said Garcia. "We also have a much deeper bench."

The retooled squad, which will carry the new team name Rain or Shine, is gunning for a second straight title in the PBL wars which fire off on Oct. 29.

The Paint Masters will continue to bank on veterans Marvin Ortiguerra, JR Reyes, Eugene Tan, Jojo Tangkay, Jay Coching and Erwin Sta. Maria.

Beefing up their roster are La Salle's Jun Jun Cabatu, TY Tang and Pocholo Villanueva, Letran's Ronjay Enrile and San Beda's Yousif Aljamal.

Team owner Raymund Yu also announced the appointment of former Welcoat coach Leo Austria as the company's basketball operations officer.

'Lina should be the one to yield'

BAP head urged to make sacrifice so SEAG caging may be held

By Musong R. Castillo

BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines president Joey Lina should pave the way for the holding of the Southeast Asian Games caging tourney by yielding to the authority of the Philippine Olympic Committee, Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said.

Puentevella, also the POC vice president, said that Lina has got the picture all wrong and cannot dictate on 33 national sports associations which expelled the BAP from the local Olympic movement.

The congressman advised the former senator that he and the BAP can win the admiration of the nation by calling international basketball federation (Fiba) secretary general Patrick Baumann and declaring that the BAP has ceased to be the national body for the sport.

"Joey (Lina) should make one phone call to Fiba announcing that (the) BAP has relinquished its position as the basketball body in the Philippines," Puentevella said. "Since we are hosts, let us join hands.

"This country will admire you more for this magnanimous act."

On Monday, Lina said the POC can save the basketball tourney in the SEAG by temporarily reinstating the BAP.

"The picture (he is seeing) is all wrong," Puentevella added. "He cannot dictate on 33 heads of NSAs."

Wack Wack ladies off to a fiery start

VILLAROMAN

BAGUIO—WACK WACK stole the limelight from the Carmelette Villaroman-led Manila Southwoods by grabbing a hefty 15-point lead after the first round yesterday of the 3rd Asian Ladies Team championship at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

Liza Lopez carded 48 points, Bing Liboro backed her up with 46 and Stephanie Yu added 44 as the Mandaluyong golfers posted 138 points to upstage the defending champion Southwoods squad on Day 1 of this 54-hole, three-division competition.

Villaroman sizzled with 50 points and was tied for the individual lead by fast-rising jungolfer Cyna Rodriguez of Riviera, just two ahead of Lopez.

Forest Hills-Nicklaus and Villamor were the other division leaders in the tournament supported by Smart Communications as presentor and CJH Golf Club, CJH Development Corp., CJH Manor Hotel and Le Chef as the other sponsors.

Violy Pegels (42), Tess Staub (40) and Christine Lava (37) of Forest-Nicklaus combined for 119 for a seven-point lead over Royal Northwoods in Group II, while Villamor's Hong Mei Fu (37), Ting Yupangco (33) and Nancy Chia (31) made 101 to zoom ahead by 10 over Forest-Palmer.

But it was the young Rodriguez who created a stir as she looked poised to challenge Villaroman for the individual crown.

Liboro's 46-point effort gave her a three-point cushion over Lenny Cuyno of Baguio Country Club in Group II while Stephanie Park of Royal Northwoods amassed 40 to lead Cecilia Tan of Forest-Palmer by one and Hong Mei Fu of Villamor and Joy Sevilla by three.

The standings:

Group 1—138 Wack Wack, 123 Manila Southwoods-Masters, 113 Villamor, 111 Riviera

Group 2—119 Forest Hills-Nicklaus, 112 Royal Northwoods, 108 BCC, 96 Phoenix, 96 Valley, 91 Camp John Hay

Group 3—101 Villamor, 91 Forest Hills-Palmer, 87 Brewyard, 87 Manila Southwoods-Legends, 80 CJH 2

TYSON Sy, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan and Smart Communications head Boy Martirez (from left) formalize the telecom giant's sponsorship recently. With them are Sy's mentor Pastor "Boy" Saycon, Smart Key Relations head Julie Carceller and PLDT media affairs manager Butch Jimenez.

PLDT backs ace driver Sy's bid for Formula One ride

TYSON SY NEED NOT WORRY NOW ABOUT money in his chase for racing glory.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) has pledged support for the 18-year-old Filipino driver who is running second in the race for the overall championship of the Asian Formula Three series.

"Tyson deserves all the support he can get," said Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of the board of PLDT Global, First Pacific Corp. and MyDSL. "We at PLDT would like to help send the first Filipino to Formula One in the near future and we hope that it will be him. The only way he can do that is if he has all the necessary resources."

Sy will try to beat Indon Ananda Mikola to the overall title when the AF3 stages its final races on Nov. 6 at the Batangas Racing Circuit. He will also vie in the Asian Formula Renault Challenge of the 52nd Macau Grand Prix, two weeks later.

"We are one with Tyson in his quest to land an F1 drive in the future," said Boy Martirez, head of Smart Communications. "We are confident that he has the skills and attitude to achieve his ultimate goal."

PLDT's sponsorship will help fund Sy's Macau Grand Prix and European Formula 3 campaigns.

Sad fate for basketball Hall-of-Famer

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

WORKING ON A lead given to me by a broadcast associate, I went out of my way to investigate a gruesome mauling incident that occurred last Oct. 4 in New Manila, Quezon City.

The victim of the mauling, according to the radio broadcaster, was 76-year-old Tony Genato, a National Basketball Hall-of-Famer who played in the 1952 and 1956 World Olympics in Helsinki and Melbourne, respectively, alongside greats like Carlos Loyzaga, Ramoncito Campos, Paeng Hechanova and Eddie Lim.

A product of San Beda College, Genato was also a member of the fabled RP team that took the bronze in the 1954 World Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the gold in the Manila Asian Games that same year.

"Tony has brought so much glory and honor to our country, it is so sad that a man like him would be treated with such cruelty and indignity," said the broadcaster who gave a sketchy account of the incident.

"It happened on the road, at the corner of Gilmore and 4th Avenue *daw. Dahil* traffic and *mukhang nagmamadali daw itong nambugbog*, he went against the flow, *sumalubong. Nung makasalubong daw si Tony, hindi pinagbigyan. Nagkasigawan. Nilusob 'ng* driver si Tony while he was still seated in the car *at pinagbububugbog*. If you want a complete report, go to the Galas Police precinct where it was filed," he suggested.

I did more than that. I never got to talk with Genato personally because a message machine always took my calls, but I was able to talk with some people close to him who requested anonymity.

* * *

According to our source, the perpetrator's brand new black Montero was so heavily tinted, Tony did not see that there were two people inside the vehicle.

"*Mag-ama pala ang nasa loob. Yung* father, *mga* 60 years old, *yung anak, mga* 33. It was the son who first came down to attack Tony. *Binuksan yung* car door *at pinagsusuntok. Pinagpunit-punit pa ang* shirt. *Tapos bumaba din yung tatay*. I can't remember *kung sino sa kanila ang may dala nung bakal na* lock *para sa* steering wheel, but he used this to smash the windows of Tony's car—a 1996 Lancer, *tapos binato sa kanya yung bakal*. All the while, *walang nagawa si* Tony because he was taken by surprise and he was unable to unfasten his seatbelt. Tony was bleeding by the time they were through with him, and some of his fingers were fractured," our source related.

Luckily, the perpetrators were apprehended as they were cruising Balete Drive after leaving the scene of the crime. They were brought to the Galas police precinct. Police sources identified them only as a certain Llorente, a lawyer, and his son. Genato had to go to the Jose Reyes Hospital for treatment and to secure a medico-legal report. By the time he got home tired, weary and aching all over, it was already 2 a.m.

"How could they have beaten up a helpless old man, *pinagtulungan pa?*" said our source.

Genato is suing the Llorentes for damage to property and attempted murder.

* * *

Judging from his shy, conservative looks and his low-key personality, it's hard to imagine that this PBA player could be involved with a very sexy starlet who is now in the news because of her quarrel with a fellow starlet who she said was accusing her of being a klepto.

"Tita Beth, *may anak pala ditto sa sexy starlet si player at nagrereklamo nga ito dahil tila yata hindi ito nakakapagbigay ng sustento* lately," reports Elmer Sta. Maria, our Sportsbizz vigilante.

Elmer said the initials of the player are P.S. I think I know who he is. However, I don't know if he's single or married.

Now's the time to say thank you to Luisito

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

CAUTION IS THE KEY AS MANNY PACquiao weighs the offer from former two-time world champion Luisito Espinosa to work as his sparmate.

First question first: Can Luisito survive the bombs Pacquiao will unleash with abandon in trying to load up for his revenge fight against Mexican ring great Erik Morales?

Baka mamatay siya (He could get killed). That, exactly, was the initial worry sounded out by Pacquiao when he heard of Espinosa's offer to be part of his training staff for the Morales rematch.

It was Pacquiao's right to ask. If he, for example, ends up pulling his punches to save Luisito from undue harm, that part of the preparation procedure would be a total trash.

Pacquiao can't soft-pedal now. He definitely needs all the solid support for what has loomed as the biggest fight of his rich career.

* * *

Of course, while asking whether or not Luisito would be up to the task, Pacquiao did not shun the fact that Espinosa, now stranded in a friend's garage in California after being abandoned by his wife, has also been rendered penniless.

Word has reached us that Pacquiao, other than buy Luisito a choice seat at the Staples Center on Sept. 11, when three Filipino boxers carved out a historic 3-for-3 knockout masterpiece in California, later fished out a bundle of green bucks to send off Espinosa.

Being on the receiving end of a knockout artist's fury, needless to say, is one the cruelest ways to earn a little.

If taken in by Pacquiao, Luisito would be reduced to a punching bag, long after his proud days inside the ring are over.

* * *

Of course, in forcing the over-the-hill former world boxing king back into the brutal business, his backers claimed Luisito could be of great help to Pacquiao technically.

Not only is Luisito as tall as Morales. He could lend Pacquiao some deep secrets of the trade, unlike previous sparmates.

But should these additional fight inputs be reason enough to expose Luisito to what Pacquiao had called real dangers?

These admirers of the former champ should be commended for their concern.

But the way they sounded, these friends who have been trying to peddle Luisito to Team Pacquiao seemed to have no other choice. They just have to help Luisito. Period.

* * *

Now, this is not the case with a group that has lined up a stellar fight card to raise funds for Luisito Espinosa's legal battle against those who cheated him of his multimillion-peso purse when he defended his world featherweight title in Koronadal in 1996.

Hermie Rivera, who discovered and developed Espinosa into a world champion, could not aptly express his gratitude to people like Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato and Joe Robles, a Fil-Am cop in San Francisco, California, who now acts as Luisito's manager and agent. These two are behind the card called "Fight for Love" whose proceeds would go to Espinosa.

Said Piñol: "I'm sure there'll be no motorcade or a grand welcome party when Luisito comes home from the United States for the promotion in his benefit at the San Andres Civic and Sports Arena in Manila."

But, Piñol added, Luisito will return to the arms of people who genuinely love him.

The benefit, slated on Oct. 29, features a Philippine championship and five other bouts involving top fighters from Piñol's Braveheart Stable against nationally rated rivals.

Piñol said they were targeting at least P500,000 in proceeds, with the help of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who has lent the venue and also waived the city amusement tax.

Robles is in the forefront of moves to have Luisito be present during the stellar card. Take note that Luisito's miseries were not self-inflicted. He got gypped.

Kindly find time to honor Luisito, who has given the Philippines many proud moments in the international boxing stage, by coming to the fight.

It's a way of assuring this jilted sports hero, who has risked his life in the name of national glory, that the Filipino still knows how to say thank you, despite the widespread oppression, runaway lying and corruption prevailing in our poor, cheated nation.

Cardinals stay alive

Pujols' 3-run homer stalls Astros' march

PUJOLS: Cardinal Hero AFP

HOUSTON—WITH HOUSTON one tantalizing out from its first World Series, Albert Pujols saved St. Louis by hitting a stunning three-run homer in the ninth inning for a 5-4 victory in Game 5 of the National League championship series on Monday.

Pujols' shot over the train tracks high above the left-field wall sent the series back to St. Louis for Game 6 on Wednesday, with Mark Mulder set to face Houston's Roy Oswalt. The Cardinals also staved off the wrecking ball at Busch Stadium, scheduled for demolition as soon as their season is over.

One strike from ecstasy before David Eckstein's ninth-inning single, the Astros dropped to an agonizing 0-5 with a chance to clinch the NL pennant.

One moment, Minute Maid Park was buzzing. The next, it was silent.

After winning pitcher Jason Isringhausen closed it with two innings of scoreless relief, shocked fans filed quietly out of the ballpark.

Lance Berkman's three-run homer in the seventh gave Houston a 4-2 lead, sending the crowd into a deafening roar.

The Astros then put the series in Brad Lidge's normally sure hands. But he couldn't come through.

After Lidge retired his first two batters in the ninth, the pesky Eckstein grounded a single to left on a 1-2 pitch. Jim Edmonds worked out a walk and Pujols, who failed to deliver with runners on all night, drove an 0-1 pitch over the limestone facade.

Astros starter Andy Pettitte, in the dugout and ready to celebrate with his teammates, mouthed the words "Oh, my" as the ball left the park.

AP

Knicks guard calls it a day

TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK—NEW YORK Knicks guard Allan Houston retired on Monday, unable to recover from knee injuries which sidelined him for much of the last two NBA seasons.

A two-time All-Star and member of the 2000 US Olympic team, Houston was one of the NBA's best outside shooters before he was slowed by chronic knee soreness. He was limited to only 70 games over the last two seasons.

"I did everything I possibly could to get back and finish my career the way I would have liked to," Houston said at the Knicks' practice facility. "My injuries just wouldn't let me do it."

Houston's retirement leaves Larry Brown without his top outside shooter as he begins his first season as Knicks coach.

AP

Manalo battles De Luna

MARLON Manalo begins his quest for a first-ever major local title today when he faces Jeffrey de Luna in the main draw of the Philippine 9-Ball Open at the Robinsons Galleria Trade Hall. Manalo, a former Asian snooker champion before switching to billiards, is the country's best finisher in the last two editions of the World Pool Championship and has four major titles in the US pool circuit this year. The five-day tournament offers P500,000 to the champion, P250,000 to the runner-up and P100,000 each to the losing semifinalists, and P40,000 each to the fifth and sixth placers.

Roligon events slated

THE STAG FESTIVAL 5-Stag derby championship round kicks off at 2 p.m. today with 120 fights at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. After two elimination days, 26 of the 164 entries are locked in a tie with two points each in the event sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. A total of P1.3 million will be disputed. The Isuzu Big Horn 4 X 4 will go to the fastest win champion. Meanwhile, Roligon is also the venue of the Clean Up 4-stag derby on Nov. 12, dangling a guaranteed prize of P300,000. Entry fee is only P5,500. For other details, please call 8512275, 8331638, 8529812 or 0917–8277484.

GCAP derby starts today

THE GCAP Extra 5-stag derby opens today at the San Juan Coliseum with 65 fights on tap. Action starts at 5 p.m. Patrick Antonio, a leading GCAP figure, promised non-stop action among the country's top breeders in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The SJC management is also gearing up for the highly awaited return of the Big Event 8–stag derby on Oct. 26 and 29, a grand showdown of the country's derby heavyweights. The elimination round (4-stag) unfolds on Oct. 26, and the 4-stag finals on Oct. 29. Also slated is the Daytime 3-stag derby on Nov

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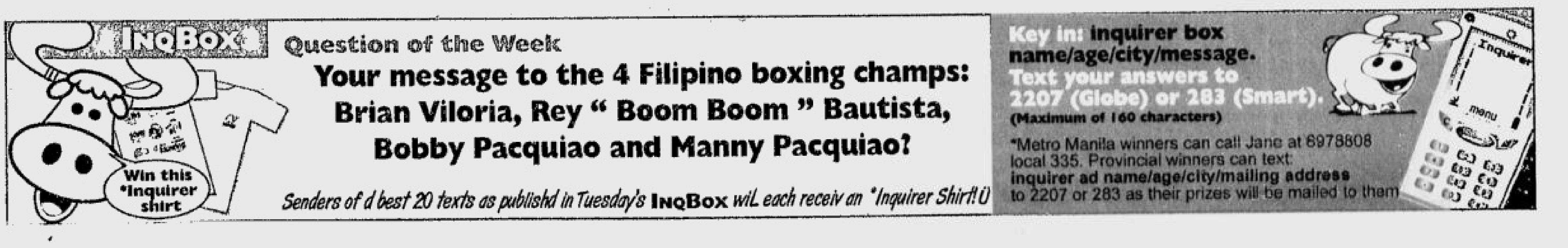

INQBOX

Question of the Week

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champs: Brian Viloria, Rey " Boom Boom " Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao?

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to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Vanna: 'I respect *Ate* Aiko'

By Nini Valera

ACTRESS VANNA GARCIA SAID HER boyfriend Martin Jickain had dumped her for Quezon City Councilor Aiko Melendez.

Vanna, 18, told INQUIRER Entertainment last week, that Martin, 22, sent her a break-up message by text just three weeks before the Nuvo bar brawl involving Aiko, Martin, Aiko's bodyguard, and the group of Happy Ongpauco.

In news reports of the incident, Martin—who was first runner-up in this year's Mossimo Bikini Summit—was identified as Aiko's boyfriend.

Vanna said that she and Martin dated for three years.

"He didn't give me any reason [for wanting to split up]," Vanna said. "I asked if we could talk but he didn't reply. I cried. We have no more communication; he has even changed his cell phone number."

A week after the breakup, Vanna found out from mutual friends that Martin and Aiko were a couple. One of these friends was Jonard Yanzon, Aiko's former boyfriend. Jonard, also 22, is a member of the cast of "Footloose" and of the boy band 17:28.

At first she didn't react to the news, Vanna said. But after the Nuvo incident, she realized it was true. "I'm not mad at them," she stressed. "These things happen; I just have to accept them."

VANNA wants to focus on her career.

She said she considered Aiko as an older sister. "I worked with her in 'Yes, Yes Show' [on ABS-CBN], but I don't know if she knew that Martin was my boyfriend then," Vanna said. "I'm sure that, had she known she wouldn't have [taken up with Martin]."

Vanna left the show about two months ago. That was also the last time she saw Aiko.

She denied tabloid stories that she has been sending haranguing text messages to both Martin and Aiko. "I don't know their numbers," she insisted. "If they're together, I want them to be happy. I don't want to ruin their relationship. I still respect Ate Aiko. She's older than me."

According to Vanna, Aiko is a fun-loving person. "[But] I don't know her well enough to tell if she's capable of doing the things she's being accused of [during the Nuvo incident]," she said.

She lamented that her name had been dragged into the issue. "I have been in show biz since I joined the cast of 'TGIS' (GMA 7) about five years ago," she said. "This is the first time I'm being involved in a controversy. I just want to concentrate on my career."

Vanna is a mainstay of the ABS-CBN soap "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin." She also appears in the quirky coming-of-age, tongue-in-cheek film, "Tuli," directed by Auraeus Solito for Viva Films.

It's a blond Bond

LONDON—JAMES BOND IS GOING BACK TO his roots. And they're blond.

Sandy-haired English actor Daniel Craig was unveiled Friday as the star of the next Bond film, "Casino Royale"—the first blond Bond and only the second Englishman to play the suave British superspy.

"I had a couple of martinis when I found out," Craig told a rambunctious news conference in London.

DANIEL Craig

Craig's name, the subject of speculation for weeks, was revealed as he was whisked down the River Thames aboard a military speedboat to a waterside news conference. He replaces Pierce Brosnan, who has starred in the last four Bond films, for "Casino Royale," due in theaters in November 2006.

Craig, 37, said he'd only found out on Monday that he definitely had the part. He said that while being considered, he'd had to think about whether he really wanted the job.

"It was difficult, but I tried to think about it like any other job. We have got an incredible script, and that is my first line of attack. Once I had read it, I knew I did not have any choice," Craig said.

Producer Michael G. Wilson said 200 actors had been considered, but Craig was the only one offered the role.

Before Friday, speculation about the new Bond also included British actors Clive Owen, Ioan Gruffudd, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant, Gerard Butler and Ewan McGregor, Irishman Colin Farrell and Australians Hugh Jackman, Heath Ledger and Eric Bana.

Relatively unknown outside Britain, Craig played Paul Newman's sinister son in "Road to Perdition," was poet Ted Hughes opposite Gwyneth Paltrow's Sylvia Plath in "Sylvia" and appeared in this year's thriller "The Jacket" with Adrien Brody.

He is currently filming another thriller, "The Visiting," with Nicole Kidman. *AP*

Dante's pick

From page A32

in the international film festival circuit.

It tied with "Les États Nordiques" for Best Full-Length Video/Digital Film at the 58th Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland. It was also invited to other festivals: Toronto, Vancouver, Chicago, Saõ Paolo (Brazil), Ljubljana (Slovenia), and Thessanoliki (Greece).

Long before "Masahista" made waves abroad, he had already finished his second film "Kaleldo."

"That means 'summer heat' in Kapampangan," he said. "It's under my own production Centerstage and it stars Johnny Delgado, Cherrie Pie Picache, Alan Paule, Angel Aquino, Juliana Palermo, Lauren Novero, Criselda Volks and Rita Magdalena."

He said that he was doing movies for the sheer pleasure of it and he's not out "to change or revive the dying industry."

"I don't want to make strong statements like that. I'm not here to preach to people or to save the movies. All I want is to make a good film."

Messianic, he's not.

"While making 'Masahista,' I had a meeting with the staff," he recalled. "I told them: 'Let's work as a team and let's enjoy ourselves while doing it!'"

"Masahista"—blown up to 35mm film "with the help of Roadrunner"—will open in 18 theaters in Metro Manila and Cebu starting today.

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November 22, 2005
MEGAMALL
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November 26, 2005
Saturday • 8 00 PM

LIVE PLAYS
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11:50FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:30FS/01:00MF/02:00/05:00/07:00
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:30END

MEGAMALL
LORD OF WAR
11:00FS/11:40MF/02:10/04:40/07:10
08:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE KING & 1
(stage play)
2 LORD OF WAR
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:08LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
LORD OF WAR
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INTO THE BLUE
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRI
DEUCE BIGALOW
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
WALLACE AND GROMIT
DUBAI
TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAI
SABLAY NA, PASAWAY PA
DUNGEONS AND DRAGON

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
TRANSPORTER 2
INTO THE BLUE
LAND OF THE DEAD
DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
DEUCE BIGALOW
LORD OF WAR
ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY AND LAVA GIRL
DUBAI
DARK WATER
BLADE OF THE ROSE
BROTHERS GRIMM

SM NORTH EDSA
ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
DEUCE BIGALOW
DUBAI
SABLAY NA, PASAWAY PA
DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
INTO THE BLUE
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
LORD OF WAR

SM CITY MANILA
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
INTO THE BLUE
DEUCE BIGALOW
ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
LORD OF WAR
CINEMANILA
LAND OF THE DEAD
DUBAI
SABLAY KA NA, PASAWAY KA PA
WALLACE AND GROMIT
BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY STA MESA
LORD OF WAR
ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
DEUCE BIGALOW
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DUBAI
DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
INTO THE BLUE
SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY PA
TRANSPORTER 2
LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
LORD OF WAR
ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
DEUCE BIGALOW
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
DUBAI
DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
INTO THE BLUE
SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY PA
TRANSPORTER 2
LAND OF THE DEAD

SM SAN LAZARO
LORD OF WAR
DEUCE BIGALOW
ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
DUNGEONS & DRAGON
SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
DUBAI

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ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
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DEUCE BIGALOW

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ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
DUBAI
LORD OF WAR
DEUCE BIGALOW

LUZON

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PERFECT CATCH
UNDISCOVERED
DEUCE BIGALOW
WALLACE AND GROMIT
SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
DUBAI

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SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
DEUCE BIGALOW
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LORD OF WAR
DUBAI
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
INTO THE BLUE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
DEUCE BIGALOW
TRANSPORTER 2
DUBAI
LORD OF WAR

SM CITY LUCENA
BROTHERS GRIMM
DEUCE BIGALOW
DUBAI
LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY BAGUIO
DUKES OF HAZZARD
A SOUND OF THUNDER
LORD OF WAR
DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY MARILAO
PERFECT CATCH
ONE MISSED CALL 2
DEUCE BIGALOW
DUBAI

SM CITY BATANGAS
TRANSPORTER 2
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DEUCE BIGALOW
DUBAI

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
KING & 1 (STAGE PLAY)
LORD OF WAR
CONSTANT GARDENER
PERFECT CATCH
DEUCE BIGALOW
ONE MISSED CALL 2
DUBAI
BLADE O F THE ROSE

SM CITY ILOILO
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
RESERVED
DUBAI
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
DEUCE BIGALOW
INTO THE BLUE
RESERVED
ONE MISSED CALL 2

SM CITY DAVAO
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MTRCB GP
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3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
MTRCB R-13
12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10:00
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9 LAND OF THE DEAD
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4 MASAHISTA
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
6 CUT / TRABAHO / DILIM
ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG
7 TULI / ILUSYON/ ALA VERDE ALA POBRE
MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN

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1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 WALLACE AND GROMIT
7 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
8 MASAHISTA

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1 MASAHISTA
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 LORD OF WAR
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL

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1 MASAHISTA
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 LORD OF WAR

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Cinema 2 Deuce Bigalow 2
Cinema 3 Lord of War
Cinema 4 Transporter 2
Cinema 5 The Adventure of Sharkboy and Lava Girl

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2 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 INTO THE BLUE

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(043) 312-5870

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2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

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3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
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2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 LORD OF WAR
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

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2 INTO THE BLUE
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	3 DUBAI	4 MASAHISTA
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 WALLACE & GROMIT	3 THX LORD OF WAR GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUTHER	5 INTO THE BLUE	6 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	7 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	2 CINEMANILA For more details call, 750-4180 TO 81		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGOLO GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 LUTHER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LORD OF WAR GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	2 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL		
	3 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	4 DUBAI	5 LORD OF WAR	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TRANSPORTER 2	2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	3 ONE MISSED CALL 2	4 BLADE OF THE ROSE

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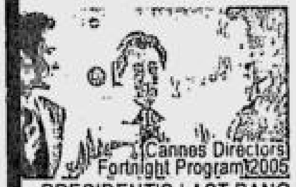
	11:30	2:00	4:30	7:00	9:30
Oct 19 (Wed)	Hidden Blade	Palermo Hollywood	Hidden Blade	The King	Palermo Hollywood
Oct 20 (Thurs)	Palermo Hollywood	Hidden Blade	Palermo Hollywood	Dear Wendy	Hidden Blade
Oct 21 (Friday)	The King	Hidden Blade	Dear Wendy	The King	Presidents Last Bang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② DUBAI
③ THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
④ MASAHISTA
⑤ LORD OF WAR

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Oct. 16 (Sunday) 10 am to 10 pm

Per DTI-NCR Permit no A2-455 Series of 2005

So long, Hollywood; bye-bye, Broadway

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT'S TIME FOR US TO ELIMINATE TWO words from our show biz and performing arts vocabulary: Hollywood and Broadway.

For many years in our colonial-minded history, those two totems of imported entertainment have loomed as hollow hallmarks and egregious icons that have alternately dazzled or intimidated local performing and film artists for all of the wrong reasons.

No thanks to our deathless colonial mentality, they have been made to believe that the acme of achievement would be for them to make it in "H" and on "B" (those words have ceased to exist in our vocabulary, remember?)

Wrong. The work to be done is right here, for our own audience, who deserves the best that we can give it.

So, forget "H" and "B" and come up with the best films and stage presentations you're capable of for the millions of Filipinos who need your artistic inputs and insights into how to deal with life and reality here, where it counts.

What about international recognition? Others can derive great colonial psychic satisfaction from it, but we shouldn't crave for this kind of affirmation, don't you think? We can be good even without the world confirming our competence.

While we're at it, can't we put a stop to our risible penchant for describing the gala presentation of a new local production as "world premiere?"

It's funny-pathetic, because the "world" certainly isn't even aware that our production exists, in the first place! So, let's get real, shall we? "Premiere presentation" is quite enough.

Films on HBO

Choice viewing picks on HBO this month:

"A Mighty Wind." A mockumentary about a deceased folk music producer's son (**Bob Balaban**) who wants to pay tribute to his father by staging a concert in his honor, a retro reunion of sorts of '60s groups. The film details the apprehensions and hopes of the performers as the concert date draws near.

"Biloxi Blues." Re-live boot camp, tyranical officers and racial prejudice through the eyes of an aspiring writer (**Matthew Broderick**) called to service in the waning months of World War II. Based on the Tony Award-winning play by **Neil Simon.**

"Changing Lanes." **Ben Affleck** and **Samuel L. Jackson** play two men in New York whose lives get intertwined in a Good Friday accident on the expressway.

"Charlotte Gray." The Scottish title character (**Cate Blanchett**) is smuggled into France during World War II and works with French resistance forces disguised as a woman from Paris.

"Doc Hollywood." A doctor (**Michael J. Fox**) ends up in a traffic accident in a small town. He can't wait to get out of the hick town, but the townspeople start to like him and plot to have him stay.

"Everyday People." An empathetic film about a day in the life of a group of hardworking New Yorkers.

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Harry returns for his third year at Hogwarts, and it's as magical and adventure-filled as ever.

"Lady Jane." **Helena Bonham Carter** plays **Lady Jane Grey,** a principled and precocious 15-year-old who becomes a pawn in the plot to maintain Protestant rule in the chaotic aftermath of her cousin King Henry VIII's death.

"Miss Lettie and Me." **Mary Tyler Moore** plays an old maid in the Deep South whose sad life is disrupted by the arrival of her young grand-niece, who tries to warm her heart and help her break out of her self-imposed isolation.

"Mystic River." **Clint Eastwood's** dark, heart-wrenching drama focuses on three childhood friends and how their lives violently intertwine and unravel.

"Out of Africa." **Meryl Streep**'s character goes to Kenya in 1913 for a marriage of convenience. Later, she meets the love of her life, a charming adventurer portrayed by **Robert Redford.**

"Something's Gotta Give." An aging lothario (**Jack Nicholson**) romances a beautiful young woman (**Amanda Peet**), but ends up with her mother (**Diane Keaton**)!

"Surviving Picasso." About **Francoise Gilot** (**Natascha McElhone**) and her colorful love affair with the charismatic **Pablo Picasso** (**Anthony Hopkins**).

"The Big Preview—'Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit.'" This special takes viewers through the long process of producing the groundbreaking animated film.

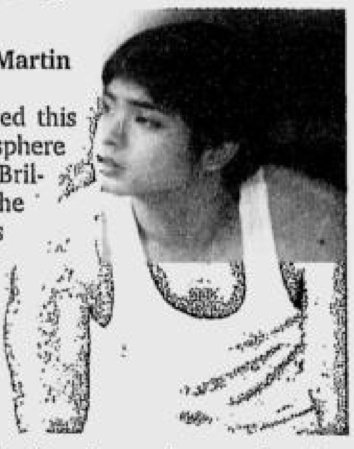
"The First Wives Club." Three jilted women (**Bette Midler, Diane Keaton** and **Goldie Hawn**) exact revenge on their youth-obsessed ex-husbands.

"The Mambo Kings." **Armand Assante** and **Antonio Banderas** play two Cuban brothers who come to America with a suitcase full of songs and hearts filled with passion, in search of a dream.

OPENING THIS WEEK

Masahista

Stars Jaclyn Jose, Alan Paule, Coco Martin
Directed by Brillante Mendoza



Jay Weissberg of variety.com posted this Aug. 16 review on the Net: "Atmosphere trumps character development in Brillante Mendoza's debut feature 'The Masseur,' co-winner of Locarno's video competish. Largely set in an all-male massage parlor/brothel, pic contrasts the sexual ambivalence within its flimsy walls with a masseur's family life in the provinces. But constant time shifts are clumsily handled, and the dramatic arc, meant to circle around on itself, ends up going nowhere."

Our own Rito P. Asilo wrote this Oct. 8 review: " ... A welcome concoction of innovative storytelling and in-your-face critique on social mores and morality. The film's protagonist, Iliac (Coco Martin), a charming masseur in the big city, goes back to his hometown to bury his deadbeat father, who succumbs to a cirrhotic liver... The film is not for everyone—and certainly not for people easily put off by nudity, prostitution and other adult- and sex-oriented themes. But, despite technical glitches, Mendoza establishes an atmosphere that reveals the tender attributes of his flawed characters... Self-indulgent filmmakers can learn a thing or two about compact storytelling from 'Masahista,' a solid feature that clocks in at less than 80 minutes. As a result, the movie's narrative focus is clearer and less cluttered."

The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl

Stars Taylor Lautner, Taylor Dooley, David Arquette, Kristin Davis
Directed by Robert Rodriguez

Peter Bradshaw in his Aug. 26 review in The Guardian wrote: "The movie looks as if Rodriguez knocked it out in a month or so in his hi-tech digital suite. Certainly he can't have spent too much time working with the young actors, because the children involved give the most painfully bad and undirected performances I have seen for a long time, an awful long way from the first and very likeable 'Spy Kids' movie. The hero is Max (Cayden Boyd)—a whingeing blond Macaulay Culkin look-alike—whose mum and dad (Kristin Davis and David Arquette) are splitting up and who gets bullied at school for being a dreamer. The pre-teen superheroes he mentally creates, Sharkboy and Lavagirl, actually materialize and carry him away to Planet Drool, a weird Oz of his own imagining. Sharkboy is a bragging alpha male in embryo; Lavagirl is a grinning trainee-siren, not far from the one who grows up to seduce Bruce Willis in 'Sin City.'"

Luther

Exclusively at Ayala Cinemas
Stars Joseph Fiennes, Peter Ustinov
Directed by Eric Till

Catharine Tunnacliffe wrote this Oct. 21, 2004 review for eye weekly: "'Luther' hopes to do for Martin what 'The Passion of the Christ' did for Jesus: Excite the faithful and (cynically speaking), get religious bums in cinema seats. However, it's extremely doubtful this obscure film in limited release will do even a tenth as well as (ultra-orthodox Catholic) Mel Gibson's film; the Protestants have lost the battle for the box office before it's even begun. When it comes to religious figures, Mar-

OPENING/A31

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In cooperation with the City of Manila
7th CINEMANILA
international film festival

OCTOBER 19, 2005 SCREENINGS

SM Manila (Cinema 7)	Dilim 12:20pm	Ala Verde Ala Pobre 2:20pm	Tuli 4:50pm	Trabaho 7:20pm	Ang Daan 9:30pm	
SM Manila (Cinema 12)	Absolut 1:00pm	Pelicanman 3:10pm	Bow Barracks Forever 5:10pm	Cut 7:40pm	Whale Rider 9:30pm	
Isetan	The Leap 10:30am	The Leap 12:10pm	The Leap 2:00pm	The Leap 3:50pm	The Leap 5:40pm	The Leap 7:30pm
Gotesco	Rainmaker 11:10am	Rainmaker 12:30pm	Rainmaker 2:30pm	Rainmaker 4:30pm	Rainmaker 6:30pm	Rainmaker 8:30pm

Please call the following cinemas for details:
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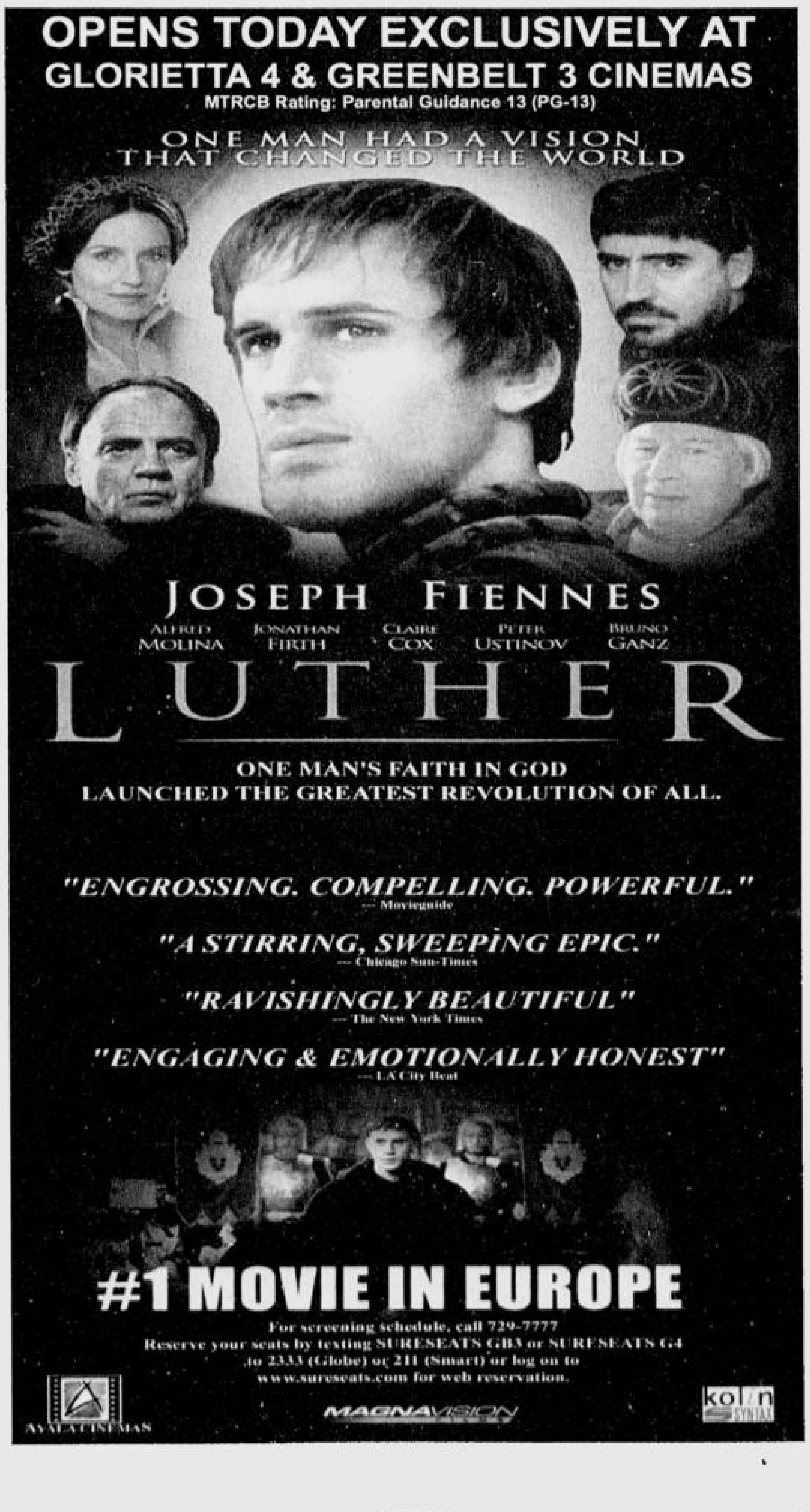

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AYALA CINEMAS
MAGNAVISION

ANA Capri

Home à la pobre

AFTER JUST A FEW days in theaters, Briccio Santos' Cinemanila entry "À la Verde, À la Pobre" has earned significant awards buzz.

Its depiction of Manila slums and impressive performances from its actors led by indie cinema favorite Ana Capri make it an early favorite in the Cinemanila awards derby tonight.

The movie tells the story of Manuel and Jessica, a young couple trying to survive against the odds in the *riles*, a hustling community along the railroad tracks.

Manuel (played by Richard Joson) is a former communist rebel. who turned his back on the organization after a purging among his comrades. He works as a janitor for a recruitment agency specializing in sending Filipinos in Japan to work as entertainers.

Jessica (played by Ana Capri) is a former Japayuki. She does her best to be a good housewife but becomes a drug dealer so she could have a comfortable life.

"À La Verde, À la Pobre" is the latest work of filmmaker, painter and photographer Briccio Santos. The European-schooled artist has maintained a consistently adventurous and markedly experimentalist approach in the various media he has worked on.

Santos directed the full-length feature film "Manikang Papel" in 1970, when he first attempted to take up residence in the Philippines.

OPENING THIS WEEK

From page A30

tin Luther is definitely B-list, particularly when compared to the Son of God."

Doom

Opens Oct. 21
Stars The Rock, Karl Urban, Rosamund Pike
Directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak

From imdb.com: "Based on the home computer game with millions of devoted fans worldwide. In the movie (simultaneous worldwide release so we can't find a single review anywhere), something has gone wrong at a remote scientific research station on Mars. All research has ceased. Communication has failed. And the messages that do get through are less than comforting. It's a level 5 quarantine and the only souls allowed in or out are the Rapid Response Tactical Squad—hardened Space Marines armed to the teeth with enough firepower to neutralize the enemy... or so they think."

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OPENS OCTOBER 26
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CHA TAE-HYUN
MY SASSY GIRL
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Leisure Guide

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LORD OF WAR
1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:35
SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
MASAHISTA
1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
CORPSE BRIDE
2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
LORD OF WAR
1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
WALLACE & GROMIT
2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
DUBAI
1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN
1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9.20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① DUBAI
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
② LORD OF WAR
11:55 / 2:45 / 5:35 / 8:25
③ SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
12:15 R3 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
④ SHUT UP
12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
⑤ DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Oct 19 Wed
GINEBRA vs ALASKA 4:40 pm
TALK N TEXT vs STA LUCIA 7:25 pm
Oct 21 Friday
COCA COLA vs TALK N TEXT 4:40 pm
ALASKA vs AIR 21 7:25 pm

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2 (DOLBY) WALLACE & GROMIT GP
3 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW 2 R13
4 (DOLBY) 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) CORPSE BRIDE GP

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3 (DTS) INTO THE BLUE
4 GOLD (DTS) 40-YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) LORD OF WAR
6 GOLD (SDDS) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
7 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
8 DUBAI
9 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2
10 TRANSPORTER-2

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2 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 (DOLBY) 40-YEAR OLD VIRGIN

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2 (DTS) INTO THE BLUE
3 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
4 BLADE OF THE ROSE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
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2 (DOLBY) INTO THE BLUE
3 (DTS) LAND OF THE DEAD
4 BLADE OF THE ROSE

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE CROW-4
3 (DOLBY) DUBAI
4 (DTS) PERFECT CATCH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE CAVE
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 (DOLBY) DUBAI

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Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 WALLACE & GROMIT
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DEUCE BIGALOW-2

Blue Wave MARIKINA
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1 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
2 (DOLBY) WALLACE & GROMIT
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 (DOLBY) DUBAI

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2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 RESERVED
4 CINE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
5 SHUT UP

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2 THE CAVE
3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 RESERVED

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Dante's pick

Currently doing the international film fest rounds is first-time director Brillante Mendoza's 'Masahista'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

JACLYN Jose says this is the right time for *Direk* Dante's film debut.

PRODUCTION DESIGNER Brillante "Dante" Mendoza made his directorial debut almost two decades after winning awards for "Private Show" and "Takaw Tukso" in 1986.

Why the delay?

He wasn't just waiting for the right project; he was also sidelined by single parenthood.

"When I decided to have a child, I resolved to focus on raising my daughter Angelica Gabriel [who's now 8]," he explained.

In that decade-long hiatus from show biz, he juggled parenting and his production-design work in TV commercials (for Closeup and Alaska).

Then the concept of "Masahista" (international title: "The Masseur" and produced by Gee Entertainment and Centerstage) was broached to him. He gathered his team and "deliberated and revised the script."

"We are all newcomers in this project. Production designer is Benjamin Padero; musical director, Jerrold Tarog; sound design, Nonoy Dadivas; scriptwriter, Boots Agbayani Pastor; directors of photography, Timmy Jimenez and Monchie Redoble."

Hiring friends

Hiring friends was one way to solve cashflow problems. "We did the movie with minimal budget, but with the help of a lot of friends."

Including Jaclyn Jose, lead star of "Private Show" and "Takaw Tukso."

"Now is the right time for him to make his debut," Jose said of Mendoza. "He was so prepared that we didn't encounter any problem on the set. We finished it in eight days."

Although a scholar of the Mowelfund Film Institute, he had embarked on a professional career (as a production designer) in the movies before finishing his course.

"I learned a lot from hands-on experience and from directors I worked with," he said. "Peque Gallaga (for "Virgin Forest"), Celso Ad. Castillo ("Lihim ng Kalapati" and the unfinished "The Diary of Vietnam Rose") and Chito Roño ("Private Show"). Chito really knew film language well. Celso is very instinctive. Peque is a very good teacher when it comes to production design and working with people."

Reality check

Preparation spelled the difference.

"Before drafting the script, we did thorough research," he said. "The lines in the script were actual words we heard from real-life masseurs. In fact, we sent our actors to actual massage parlors to talk with real masseurs."

A valid concern was depicting the travails of sex workers without ending up sensationalizing and exploiting their miseries.

"This is reality," he quipped. "In a third world country like ours these things happen. These social problems may be depressing, but they're true."

In "Masahista," the title role was played by neophyte Coco Martin.

"He's someone who doesn't have the luxury of freedom," Mendoza said. "To be deprived of the right to choose is painful. We hope moviegoers would go beyond sex and see the power struggle, the dynamics and the characters' pain."

Hopefully, that message wasn't lost on the foreigners who watched "Masahista"

DANTE'S/ A28

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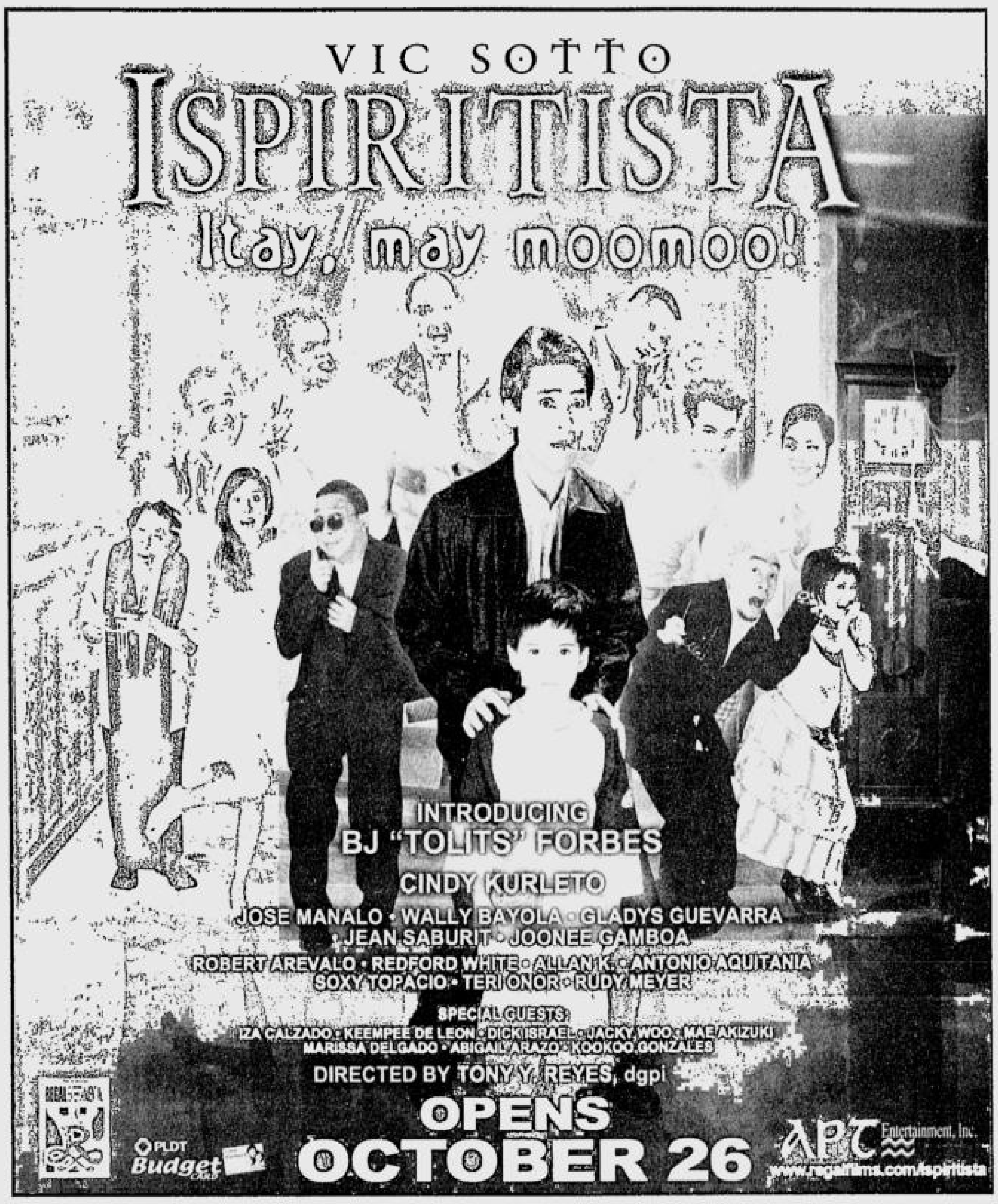
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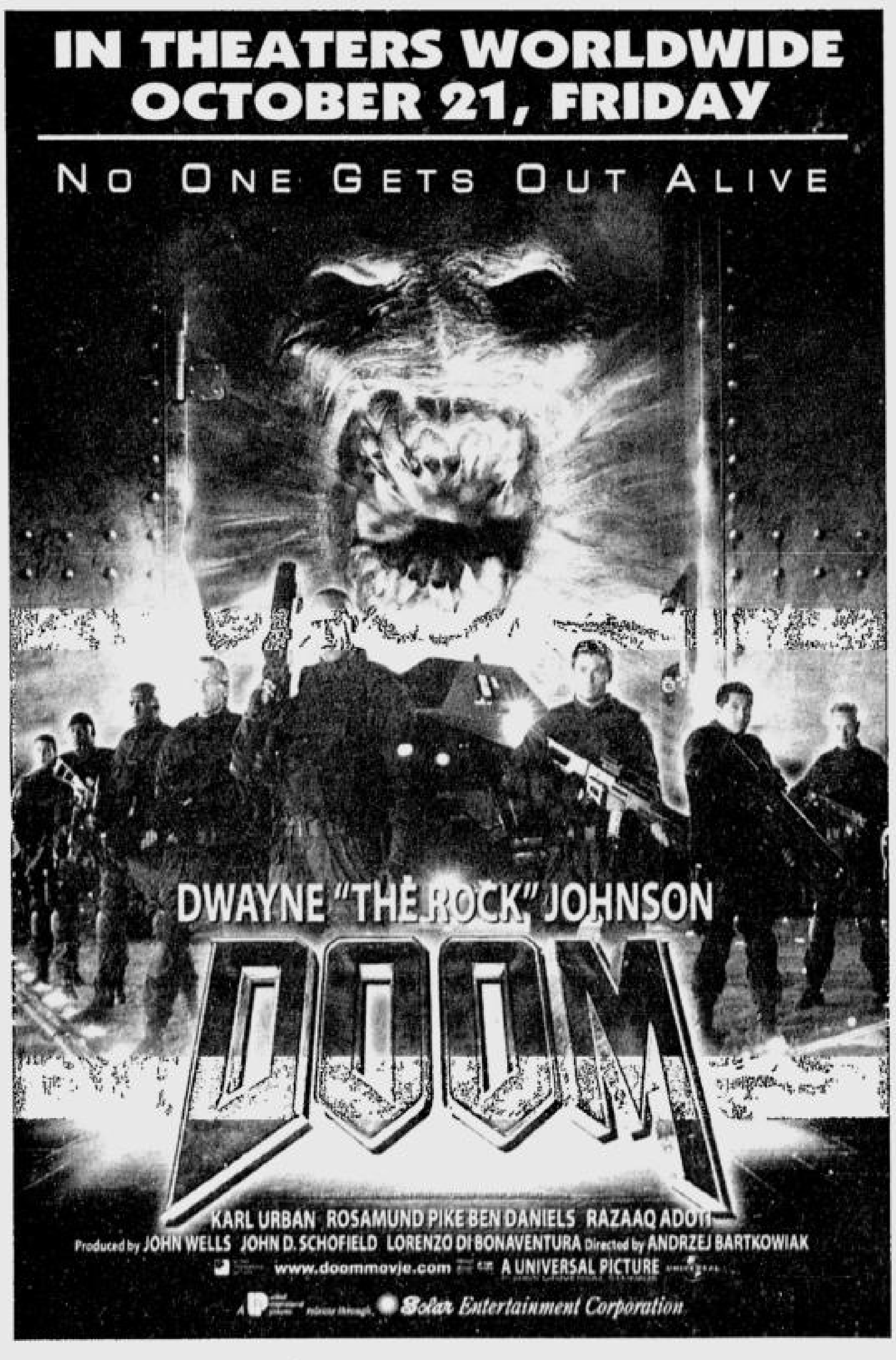
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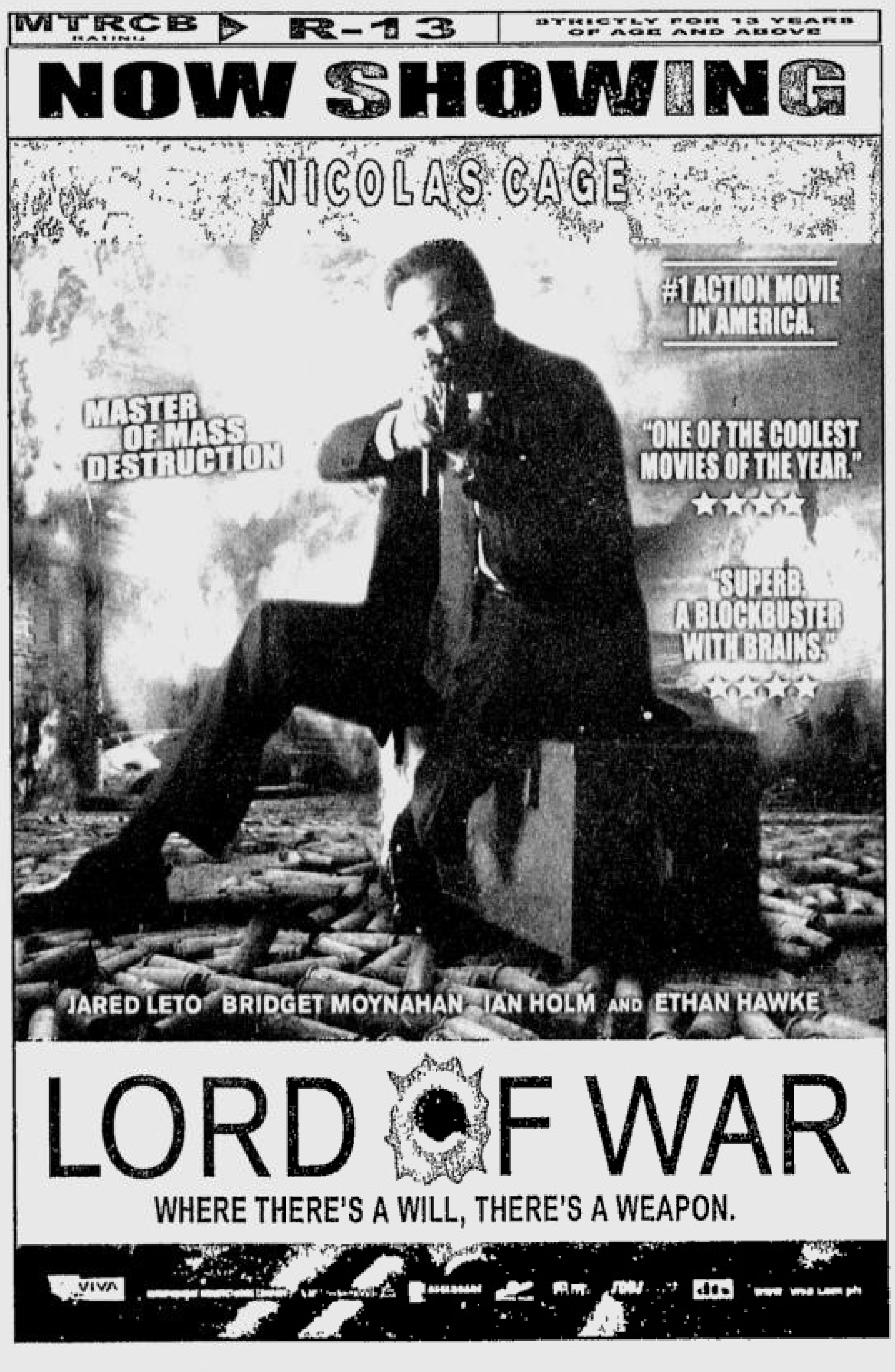
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Peso gains on high court's VAT ruling

By Doris C. Dumlao

Hits 2-mo high before closing at 55.78 to $1

THE LIFTING BY THE Supreme Court of the temporary restraining order on the expanded value added tax (VAT) law yesterday cheered the financial markets, perking up the peso to a two-month high of 55.67 to $1 before closing at 55.78.

However, some quarters said the appreciation was but a knee-jerk reaction. The peso gained from Monday's finish of 55.815, outperforming other Asian currencies.

It opened at 55.84 and surged to 55.67 on the favorable news about the VAT. It, however, gave up some gains towards the closing of the trading period.

The total volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System stood at $347 million.

"It (the lifting of the TRO on VAT) was taken positively by the market as it reaffirms the government's commitment to fiscal reforms," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"I think the trend is still positive for the peso especially because the market is expecting more foreign inflows," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines.

He said remittances from migrant workers were expected to come in this month for the second semester tuition fee payments. But given the lingering political uncertainties, Hilado said the peso's appreciation would likely be limited.

"Only when the political noise is

PESO/ B2

Gov't posts budget gap of P27.7B

By Michelle V. Remo

AFTER POSTING A SURPLUS OF P1.75 billion in August, the national government incurred a budget deficit of P27.7 billion in September, exceeding by P2.8 billion the P24.9-billion ceiling set for the month.

The Bureau of Treasury said revenues collected during the month reached P59.3 billion while expenditures amounted to P87 billion.

A source said the deficit was brought about by higher-than-programmed spending during the month rather than weak revenue collections.

Instead of spending only P83.4 billion as programmed, government disbursements during the month reached P87 billion due to the increase in subsidies to state-owned firms and allotment for local government units.

Data showed that allotment to LGUs increased to P15 billion from P11.9 billion in the same month last year, while

GOV'T/ B4

INDICATORS

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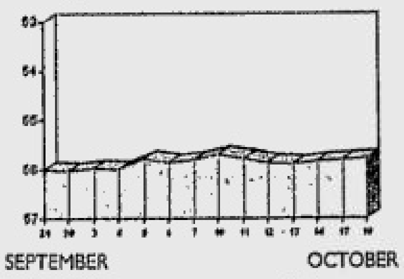

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.78 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2005

¥ 115.66 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2005

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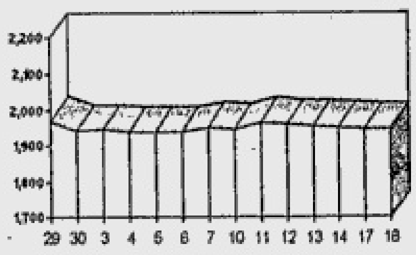

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES CLOSED FLAT yesterday as investors kept to the sidelines, awaiting a Supreme Court decision on a vital tax bill, dealers said.

(The decision lifting the temporary restraining order on the expanded value-added tax law was announced in the afternoon after the trading).

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 0.13 points to 1,947.33 after trading between 1,943.91 and 1,949.82.

Volume turnover was 287.01 million shares worth P498.24 million. The all-shares index gained 1.54 points to 1,180.80.

Losers outnumbered gainers 27 to 23, while 65 stocks were unchanged.

"Everyone is waiting for the news on the expanded VAT," said Astro del Castillo of First

SHARES/ B4

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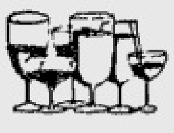

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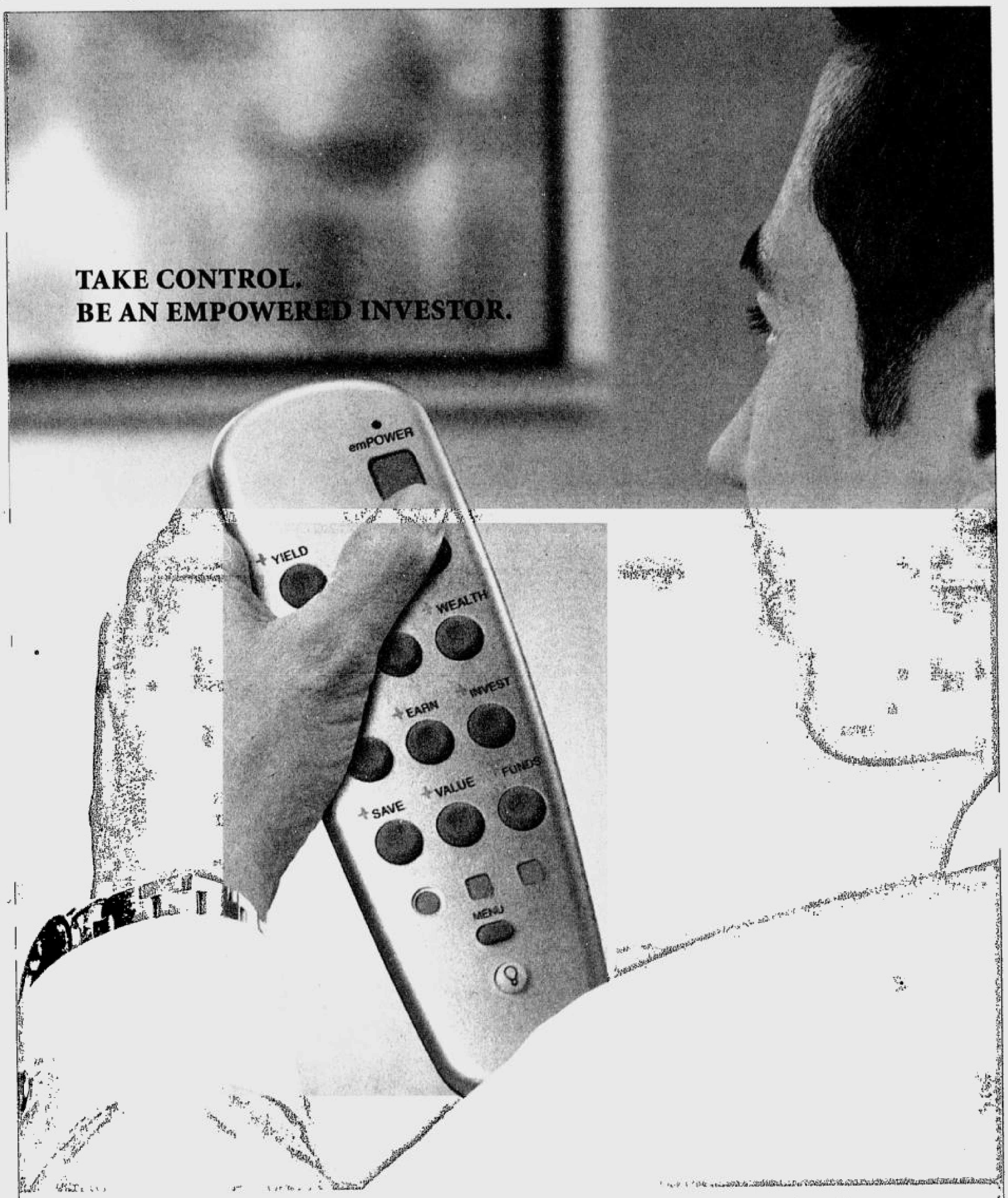

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Mactan airport raising P600M for upgrade

By Clarissa S. Batino

MACTAN CEBU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS planning to borrow P600 million from local banks to finance the immediate upgrading of its facilities so it can be completed in time for the Asean Ministers' summit in the Visayan capital next year.

Adelberto Yap, general manager of Mactan Cebu International Airport, said the airport needed an additional parking ramp, two movable air bridges, two high-end cargo X-ray machines and an overlay of the taxiway.

"The Asean Ministers' summit is scheduled to be held here in Cebu on Nov. 6 next year and we need the immediate upgrading of the airport in time for this event," said Yap in an interview.

Yap said the agency had been entertaining proposals from creditors such as the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine Veterans Bank, Union Bank of the Philippines and Philippine National Bank.

He said the passenger tubes and X-ray machines would cost roughly P400 million while the four-hectare aircraft parking ramp and the overlay of the taxiway would cost about P100 million each.

The Cebu Mactan International Airport completed two months ago the P123-million improvement of its runway. It also purchased nine brand-new X-ray machines.

Yap said the existing four air bridges could no longer accommodate the increasing number of flights landing and taking off from Cebu.

"We need P600 million for the immediate upgrade of the airport. This is different from the long-term expansion that we are planning," he said.

He said the agency would need about P2 billion to finance the construction of a new passenger terminal in the next three years to cope with the rising demand. From about 2.5 million passengers last year, the Cebu airport is expecting to handle 5 million passengers in five years.

The banks, he said, had offered to lend money for the interim upgrade. Yap said the agency would choose the most attractive offer among the lenders.

"We have internal funds so we may not have to borrow the entire amount. It really depends on how good the terms would be," he noted.

Flights to the Cebu airport has been steadily increasing, according to its general manager.

Philippine Airlines is scheduled to mount flights four times weekly to Guangzhou, China from Cebu before the end of the year, said Yap.

He said Qatar Airways, which is the only airline servicing the Middle East route direct from Cebu, would also introduce new flights this quarter.

Silk Air, a unit of Singapore Airlines, wants to double its flights to Cebu so that it can mount direct flights to the Visayan capital instead of its current Singapore-Davao-Cebu route.

Petrochem group opposes planned tariff cut on resins

BRINGING DOWN THE TARIFF RATES ON resins could trigger the collapse of the entire midstream sector of the petrochemical industry, and spook more than $1 billion in investments in two proposed naphtha crackers and another $150 million in two resin plants that are being rehabilitated, the Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP) said.

APMP said in a statement that government's plan to reduce the tariff on resins from 10 percent to 5 percent was untimely especially because the private sector had been heavily investing to build strategic plants that would make the country self-reliant and, hence, no longer a hostage to foreign suppliers.

Resins are the raw materials for consumer and industrial products such as packaging, furniture, crates, pails, and cables.

"Lowering the tariff does not make sense while projects to integrate the industry are being implemented," said Tomoyuki Koike, president of Philippine Resins Inc., the statement issued by APMP.

PRI is the country's largest and most modern PVC resin plant. Koike fears that his company's operations as well as its second PVC line expansion and backward integration projects would be "significantly" affected by the planned tariff reduction.

The $150-million rehabilitation of the petrochemical plants in Bataan might also suffer, APMP said.

But the bigger impact would be on the two proposed naphtha crackers worth more than $1 billion that JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. and PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. would put up separately.

Wilfredo Paras, APMP chair and JGSPC executive vice president, said: "There is no point to withdraw tariff support at the very time when the midstream industry needs it while the naphtha cracker is on the verge of realization. It is during the development and transitional phase that the tariff cover is necessary, not when integration has been fully achieved."

SISTER REMY ANGELA Junio (left), president of St. Paul University Philippines in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, confers upon Lucio C. Tan a doctoral degree in Business Management, Honoris Causa in recognition of his business and management skills, leadership, philanthropy and exemplary contributions to the economic development of the Philippines. With them are Virginia Resurreccion (2nd from left), Region II director of the Commission on Higher Education, and the taipan's wife, Carmen K. Tan (right).

Peso gains . . .

From page B1

gone will we see the peso breaking out of the range of 55.50-56:$1," Hilado said.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said: "What is critical is a substantial close below the 55.67-55.70 level to sustain a rising peso until the end of the year."

ATR Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo said the delayed implementation of the VAT law would likely have a lesser impact on the government's fiscal position this year compared to the original forecast.

"From the potential P26 billion in additional revenue in July, the anticipated tax take from the expanded VAT has been reduced substantially due to the delay," Lorenzo said.

Had it been implemented in Oct. 1, the potential revenue would have already dwindled to P7 billion, she said.

"Yet, the national government's fiscal position has continually improved this year despite the delay in the VAT law implementation. This was because revenues slightly exceeded the overall target while interest payments were lower than expected," Lorenzo said.

She noted that the new administrative measures, in addition to the impact of the sin tax law, had helped improve revenues and that the fiscal picture has greatly improved even at the consolidated level.

The broader sales tax, designed to boost the chronically weak state revenues, was frozen on July 1, hours after it came into force due to legal motions.

The Supreme Court ruled last month that the tax was constitutional but kept the TRO on its implementation up to yesterday.

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20-yr T-bond rate pegged at 12.125%

By Michelle V. Remo

INTEREST RATE FOR THE 20-year Treasury bond rate was kept at 12.125 percent during yesterday's auction.

Investors displayed strong appetite for the government's long-term debt instrument by placing high volume of bids.

The 20-year bond also fetched a rate of 12.125 percent in its last auction held in April this year.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the huge amount of tenders for the 20-year bond was an indication the credit market was gaining confidence in the government's long-term fiscal prospects.

The primary market for the 20-year bond is composed mostly of banks and insurance companies.

"It shows strong appetite of the market and speaks of long-term confidence of investors," Cruz said in a press briefing after the auction.

The 20-year bond was highly oversubscribed, with tenders reaching P7.4942 billion compared with the government's debt offering of only P4 billion.

The Treasury's auction committee decided to accept P4 billion worth of bids, thus raising the borrowing schedule in full amount.

Cruz said that market confidence is also shown not only in the government's long-term prospects but also in the short term, as reflected by decreasing interest rates on short-term Treasury bills.

In the auction for T-bills last Monday, interest rates decline across all maturities, with the benchmark 91-day T-bill rate fetching a rate of 5.818 percent, or 5.9 basis points lower than the previous.

Creation of special trade office pushed

By Christine A. Gaylican

A BILL CREATING THE PHILIPpine Trade Representative Office, which will lead a multi-sectoral negotiating panel in all trade talks involving the country, has been filed in the House of Representatives.

"House Bill No. 4798 will stop the tug-of-war persisting among line agencies participating in bilateral and multilateral trade talks," Rep. Lorenzo R. Tañada III said in a briefing yesterday.

The bill was filed by Tañada early this month and endorsed by five other congressmen—Representatives Ronaldo B. Zamora of San Juan, Del R. de Guzman of Marikina City, Proceso Alcala of Quezon City, and party-list Representatives Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva and Mario Aguja.

The Trade Representative Office will take the lead in negotiating for trade agreements under the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean Free Trade Agreement), as well as bilateral trade and investment agreements with other countries.

On top of the trade deals under the WTO, Apec and Asean, the country has 47 other existing bilateral trade and investment agreements with other countries.

"The combined impact of all these agreements has yet to be appreciated as there is no singular entity principally responsible for monitoring and maintaining a cohesive and coherent trade policy vis-a-vis our national interest," Tañada pointed out.

"The Philippine Trade Representative Office will systematize the whole process," Tañada said.

The proposed measure provides that the trade office will operate under the guiding principle of consultation with all affected sectors and ensuring their representation in trade negotiations.

The trade office, which is expected to establish coherence, greater predictability, accountability and transparency in trade and investment policy making, was proposed to be placed under the Office of the President.

Tañada said that under the existing system, the Department of Foreign Affairs was considered the final negotiator and even the signatory in trade agreements although it was familiar with the details of the deals.

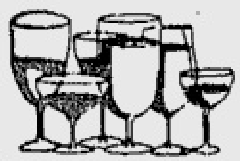
"The secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry is the lead negotiator even if the subject of the negotiation is agriculture," he added.

In the meantime, Rep. Mario Aguja said endorsers of the bill were asking Malacañang to certify the bill as urgent so it could be passed in no more than a year and a half.

Tañada said that a similar bill would be filed in the Senate by either Sen. Francisco Pangilinan or Sen. Mar Roxas III.

Better press overseas

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE PHILIPPINES AND GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo seem to be getting more sympathetic coverage from overseas business publications than from the local rag sheets.

"Manila mood shifts/Anxiety lessens as budget crisis eases," read the Page 1 blurb of The Wall Street Journal Asian edition on Monday, incidentally the paper's very first issue in compact size rather than the usual broadsheet.

"The Philippines has taken a lot of lumps but positives peek out," was the headline of the "Heard in Asia" column that the Page 1 blurb referred to. The "Heard" column is a regional takeoff from the parent US newspaper's popular "Heard on the Street" feature.

It quoted Thomas Crouch, the Asian Development Bank's country director for the Philippines, as saying he is "tired of sitting here and talking negatives. The government has done a huge amount of good things."

The tone was a turnaround from finger wagging that the Asian Wall Street Journal, edited by a Singaporean who was once posted in the Philippines, gave the country in various editorials and columns when GMA pulled out the Philippine contingent from Iraq.

Even during the height of the impeachment hearings, the Philippine reportage of The Economist and Forbes had a tone of grudging admiration for The Little Lady not only for her political savvy and tenacity, but also for the economy's resilience in overcoming the daily barrage of toxic "spews" from political and religious charlatans.

"There is no good alternative to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," the Economist declared, as it expressed distaste for yet another call for People Power to remove another sitting president.

Zara rushes in more stock

WHEN politics gets toxic, the tough go shopping.

Zara had to fly in more stock from Spain Monday after recording "great" sales during the first two days of operation of the clothing chain's Rockwell store.

The rush to buy actually started even during Friday night's pre-inaugural cocktails, when a number of guests expressed immediate interest in the merchandise rather than in the gorgeous models, the female Spanish fashionistas, or the chaotic "sprayer rally" on Mendiola.

What made shopping enticing was that the local Zara clothes have the same prices as those in Singapore and Hong Kong because of the chain's uniform pricing policy.

To make sure that the fit and finish of its very first store in the Philippines complies with company standards, Zara even flew in 20 carpenters from Spain, housing them no less than in Mandarin and Peninsula to build the 1,500-square-meter store.

Even the marble floor tiles came from Spain.

Despite the Zara boom, the other Spanish boutique store at the other end of Rockwell, Mango, even saw its sales rise by 17 percent in the same weekend, said Rockwell boss, Nestor Padilla, rubbing his hands in glee.

Money-go-round

- CEBU Pacific has quietly fielded its brand-new, fine-smelling Airbus 319 also on the Manila-Hong Kong route. The HK-Manila flights even have the latest issue of The Economist in every seat.
- THE SHARE price of Robinsons Land has nearly tripled in less than a year, with the stock market punters betting that John Gokongwei's plan to increase the size of shares floated and the increased cash dividend policy would finally give the taipan's real estate company the same gravitas as that of Ayala Land and SM Prime Holdings.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SANDIGANBAYAN, led by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, gave lawyers of Malacañang nominees in Philcomsat a tongue-lashing yesterday for "misleading" the court, as the same group led by Mike Arroyo cousin Benito "Bomboy" Araneta had done earlier to the Supreme Court.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PLDT to settle $600M in '05 debts

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CO. will exceed its $600-million debt reduction target this year as the company took advantage of its financial strength to pay down some obligations ahead of schedule, its top official said.

"All told, consolidated debts will be reduced by more than $600 million for 2005. This will be in excess of our debt reduction target," said PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan.

Originally, PLDT was to pay $540 million in fixed-line and wireless obligations this year. The target was later raised to $600 million. Two weeks ago, the company launched an offer to pay $72 million in debts falling due in 2007.

PLDT treasurer and senior vice president Annebelle Chua said the company had already settled $550 million in debts so far this year.

The final amount by yearend would depend on whether all those holding PLDT's 2007 bonds would agree to sell now.

At the start of the year, PLDT's debts stood at $2.8 billion. Of this amount, $2 billion are owed by the fixed-line business. Subsidiaries Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. have a combined debt of $718 million.

PLDT officials said they would like to see the debts of the parent company go down to $1.5 billion or lower by the end of 2006.

Pre-paying debts will allow PLDT to save on interest charges and minimize foreign exchange risks. The company is looking at a net profit of P29 billion this year.

Clarissa S. Batino

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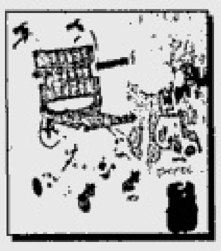
CEBU 417-8286
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-7540
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061



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Megaworld gets 42% of Fairmont

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY GIANT MEGAWORLD CORP. IS raising its stake in low-cost housing arm Fairmont Holdings Inc., formerly gaming firm BW Resources Corp., to 42 percent in line with its scheme to tap all housing market segments.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Fairmont said its board has approved to raise its capital by P1 billion to P3 billion from the current P2 billion.

Of the P1 billion increase, 25 percent or P250 million will be subscribed by Megaworld.

This raises Megaworld's stake to 42 percent out of the proposed increase in issued shares to 2.25 billion.

Megaworld currently owns 35.3 percent of Fairmont's issued shares.

Megaworld shares ownership of Fairmont with Emerging Market Assets Ltd. and Macau casino tycoon Stanley Ho Hung-Sun. Emerging Market holds 11.75 percent while Ho holds 5.81 percent.

Fairmont is a holding company which was incorporated as Ramie Textiles Inc., engaged in the manufacture and sale of ramie products.

After several profitable years, Ramitex started to experience financial difficulties and eventually decided to liquidate its assets.

In May 1994, Ramitex changed its corporate name to Gaming Interest and Franchise Technologies Inc.

The company later changed its name to Greater Asia Resources Corp. in 1994, and again to BW Resource Corp. in 1998. It became Fairmont Holdings Inc. in 2000.

Sun launches rewards promo

By Clarissa S. Batino

SUN CELLULAR, THE MOBILE PHONE brand of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc. has launched a rewards program for prepaid subscribers who would get calls from users of other networks.

The Gokongwei wireless brand wants to generate inbound voice traffic from other carriers so it could collect termination fees from its competitors.

The within-network promos Sun Cellular had initiated were seen to have worked against the company. It failed to churn out more revenue.

Dubbed as Lucky 6, Sun Cellular customers will receive a free load credit of P6.50 for every six incoming calls received from other networks within a two-week period.

After two weeks, the free load credits will be sent through text, said Sun Cellular. The free credits will have the same validity as the user's existing load. Promo is up to Nov. 15.

Carriers receive a termination fee of P4 a minute from other phone companies. Among the players, Sun Cellular is generating the lowest interconnection fee because its subscribers transact mostly within the network.

The Gokongwei wireless brand is hoping that a rewards system would entice their customers to have their friends and families using Smart, Globe, Talk 'N Text and Touch Mobile to call.

Sun Cellular is currently offering Daylight Call and Text Unlimited. The company said the new promo would not replace the popular 24/7 call-and-text unlimited within the network.

The unlimited, within-network promo drove up wireless subscription for the Gokongwei phone company.

Sun Cellular customers stood at about 700,000 customers before 24/7 was launched in October last year. As of August, there are 1.88 million Sun Cellular users.

Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc., parent of Digitel Mobile, said its consolidated net revenue in the first half rose 21.5 percent at P4.24 billion. But costs and expenses that went up by 18.33 percent to P4.26 billion had offset the gains.

Costs were related to marketing, network expenses, overhead and depreciation.

The company, which also operates a fixed-line network, reported a net loss of P1.09 billion in the first half against P690 million the previous year.

Shares close flat

From page B1

Grade Holdings Inc.

The tax measure, which was originally intended to be implemented in July, is the centerpiece of the government's reform program to reduce its huge fiscal deficit. However the opposition filed a restraining order against the bill with the Supreme Court.

"There are two things that have to be considered in this issue. First, will the Supreme Court lift the restraining order? And if the court does, will the government be bent on implementing the measure?" Del Castillo remarked.

Continuing political tension exacerbated by a series of street protests seeking President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster also sidelined investors.

"Right now, there's a lack of interest in the market. People have become more selective, and the political noise has contributed much to this," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

SM Investments Corp. was top-traded, rising P4 to P218. *AFP*

Gov't . . .

From page B1

subsidies to state-owned firms rose to P2.9 billion from only P400 million.

This year's September revenue collection of P59.3 billion was, however, P800 million higher than the target of P58.5 billion.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said that despite the September deficit, the government's fiscal position on a cumulative basis was still healthy and still well on track to meeting this year's target.

"The momentum still looks good. We can easily meet the P180-billion deficit program for the year," Cruz said in a briefing with reporters. Cruz explained that the better-than-target fiscal performance in the months prior to September gave the government more flexibility in its budget position.

For the January-to-September period, the budget deficit stood at P108.5 billion, or P37.4 billion below the ceiling of P145.9 billion set for the first nine months of the year.

On the revenue side, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, the two biggest sources of national government funds, registered shortfalls in their collection targets as of September.

The BIR's tax collection stood at P392.9 billion for the first nine months of the year, or lower by P9.3 billion than its target for the period of P402.3 billion. The Bureau of Customs collected only P103.1 billion versus its P112.2-billion goal.

The two agencies are hard-pressed to significantly increase their revenue collections during the three remaining months of the year to meet their 2005 targets. For this year, the BIR and the BOC are tasked to collect P547 billion and P120 billion, respectively.

Cruz said the BIR and the BOI could be registering shortfall because their targets were too high. He said the shortfall in the two agencies' collections was more that offset by the higher-than-expected revenue collection of the Treasury.

The Treasury collected P54 billion in the first nine months compared with the P28.1 billion that it was supposed to generate. He said revenues generated by the Treasury included dividends collected from state-owned companies and interest income from government's lending to government-owned and –controlled corporations.

Collections by the Treasury helped the government exceed its revenue target for January-to-September. The P589.5 billion worth of revenues for the first nine months was P9.1 billion higher than the target of only P580.4 billion.

On the expenditure side, government disbursements of P698 billion for the first nine months was P28.3 billion lower than the ceiling of P726.2 billion set for the period.

The Department of Budget and Management said the government would likely post some savings estimated at between P6 billion and P10 billion this year because expenditures for the full year might be lower than programmed.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the Treasury, said that with the lifting of the temporary restraining order on the VAT Reform Law (RVAT), the government had more chances of reducing the budget deficit for the year to a level below the ceiling of P180 billion.

The Supreme Court lifted the TRO on the VAT law yesterday. The tax measure is estimated to generate some P5 billion in additional revenue in the remaining months of this year and over P80 billion yearly starting 2006.

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(As of October 18, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	18,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	31	232,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	51	51	548,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	600,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	48	48	48	48	17,900
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27.5	192,000
Philippine National Bank	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	1,246,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29.5	29	29.5	1,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2840	2870	2840	2870	480
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	110,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	1,320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	29,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	730	725	725	20,360
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	2,180,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1650	1665	1650	1660	47,430
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	28,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	4,400
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.25	21	21	38,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	2,708,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	1,710,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	520,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7	664,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	400,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	35,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.1	408,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	500,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	52,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28	27.5	27.5	45,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	35.5	34.5	35.5	159,500
Pancake House Inc.	2.38	3.5	2.38	2.75	177,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	20,100
San Miguel Corp. B	92	92.5	91.5	92	59,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16	82,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	287.5	292.5	287.5	290	47,010
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	59,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.16	293,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	140,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1	0.99	0.99	70,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,010,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	50,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	650,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,799,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	42	41.5	42	189,100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4	4.1	4	4.05	3,155,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	157,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	2,870,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	70,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	600,000
SM Investments Corp.	214	218	214	218	433,810
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	6,320,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	380,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	12,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	80,000
Pryce Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	440,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.65	0.74	580,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	430,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	950,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.25	72,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	9	9	9	9	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) SerieS U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.8	56,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	2,003,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.92	77,010,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.195	5,740,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	70,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	1,340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	62,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.185	2,880,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.7	6	5.7	6	1,017,000
SM Development Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	109,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	4,351,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	70,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	360,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	58,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	22,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.21	12,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	4,720,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	470,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	506,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25	71,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	670,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	51,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	26,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILEX MINING CORP. disclosed that the output of its copper operations in September was estimated at 1,327,068 kilograms copper; 223,626 grams gold (including bullion) and 232,593 grams silver (including bullion). Its estimated gross value based on provisional metal prices is P458.2 million. Also last month, two copper concentrate shipments totaling 11,107 wet metric tons (WMT) were effected, with a corresponding gross value of P763.42 million.

***

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Corp. appointed on Oct. 17 Ma. Lourdes B. Tuason as its Compliance Officer for Good Governance.

***

IPVG Corp., in reaction to Alexander Villafania's article "IPVG forms online game firm" published Oct. 16 on Inq7.net, clarified that the company is still preparing to incorporate its subsidiary IP E-Game Ventures Inc. for its online games business.

***

The Exchange implemented from 9-10 a.m. yesterday a trading halt on **Fairmont Holdings Inc.** shares. This was in line with Fairmont's previous disclosure that 25 percent of its approved P1-million increase in authorized capital stock, or 250 shares at par value of P1.00 per share, was subscribed by Megaworld Corp. ***Compiled by: Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 18, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.831393	1.000000	55.7960
Japan	Yen	0.007234	0.008701	0.4855
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458015	1.753700	97.8494
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107181	0.128917	7.1931
Switzerland	Franc	0.643543	0.774054	43.1891
Canada	Dollar	0.705168	0.848176	47.3248
Singapore	Dollar	0.491339	0.590982	32.9744
Australia	Dollar	0.624450	0.751089	41.9078
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.205580	2.652872	148.0196
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221669	0.266624	14.8766
Brunei	Dollar	0.489890	0.589240	32.8772
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020353	0.024480	1.3659
UAE	Dirham	0.226371	0.272279	15.1921
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.202800	67.1114
Argentina	Peso	0.280402	0.337268	18.8182
Brazil	Real	0.372939	0.448571	25.0285
Denmark	Kroner	0.134001	0.161176	8.9930
India	Rupee	0.018558	0.022321	1.2454
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220353	0.265041	14.7882
Mexico	New Peso	0.076669	0.092217	5.1453
New Zealand	Dollar	0.579731	0.697301	38.9066
Norway	Kroner	0.128145	0.154133	8.6000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013917	0.016739	0.9340
South Africa	Rand	0.127426	0.153268	8.5517
Korea	Won	0.000794	0.000955	0.0533
Sweden	Kroner	0.105735	0.127178	7.0960
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024884	0.029931	1.6700

JANUARY-SEPTEMBER

Gov't seizes P1B worth of counterfeit products

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN against counterfeit goods yielded a haul of P1 billion worth of fake products from January to September, surpassing 2004's record of P900 million.

Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., director general of the Intellectual Property Office, said raids across the nation were conducted by the IP units of the National Bureau of Investigation, Optical Media Board, Bureau of Customs and the Philippine National Police.

Cristobal said the improved inter-agency coordination, along with other projects like the creation of special IP courts, would further strengthen the anti-piracy drive.

IPO data show that the OMB seized 3.089 million pieces of pirated optical media products and kits valued at about P537.4 million.

According to the OMB, 1,327 inspections and 217 search warrants yielded pirated discs, disc cases, resins, computers, replicating machines, stereos, PS and MP3s, VCD and DVD players, CD burners, TV monitors and amplifier speakers.

OMB Chair Edu Manzano added that four replicating facilities in Balintawak, Quezon City, Caloocan and Malabon have been shut down.

The NBI reported that, with the help of 553 search warrants, the agency had confiscated some 1.3 million pieces of fake consumer products worth P119.5 million.

The haul included branded shirts, jeans, shoes, underwear, fashion accessories, bags, cosmetics, perfumes, food, medicines, cleaning agents, software, computers, cable TV equipment, petroleum tanks, automobile parts, and steel sheets.

Also, the BoC reported it intercepted 60,494 pieces of goods worth about P385.2.

Among the items that BoC took were books, toys, exercise equipment, glassware, footwear, clothes, fashion accessories, surgical instruments, cosmetic products and toiletries.

Electricity spot market starts trial operations in Visayas grid

By Abigail L. Ho

THE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARket (Wesm) starts trial market operations in the Visayas grid today, in preparation for full commercial operations by June next year.

Wesm president Lasse Holopainen said the implementation of the trial run comes three months ahead of schedule, but said it did not mean an earlier start of commercial operations in the Visayas.

"We believe that starting the Visayas trials early will allow for more thorough preparation for the Visayas participants," he said in a statement yesterday.

For the trial run, he said potential participants would represent more than 1,000 megawatts (MW) of installed generating capacity and demand.

The trial market operation was designed to give participants a chance to familiarize themselves with the electricity bourse in preparation for full commercial operations.

The electricity spot market will operate like a stock market. But instead of shares, electricity will be traded, with power-generating firms as sellers and electricity distributors as buyers.

The government expects that with the market in place, the distributors would get the least expensive electricity for the benefit of the consumers.

The Wesm started trial market operations in the Luzon grid last April.

Trial participants in the Luzon grid represent more than 10,000 MW of generation and 5,000 MW of demand from distributors and other large users of electricity.

Registered participants in the trial run include independent power producers Mirant Philippines Corp., Kepco Philippines Corp. and First Gas Power Corp.; power distributor Manila Electric Co.; and state firms National Transmission Corp. and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

Within the trial period, participants would get to test the various trading processes in the electricity bourse, including supply and demand bidding, scheduling and pricing, and eventually, metering and settlements.

P130-M cold storage unit up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

IGLO PHILIPPINES Inc., a joint venture between a Malaysian firm and the Concepcion group, yesterday launched the third phase of its cold storage plant in Pasig City that costs P130 million.

Iglo's Terminal 3, like the two older terminals, can accommodate as many as 3,000 pallets for chilled and frozen produce.

Iglo Philippines chair Jose Concepcion III said the company was "continuously committed" to quality service for its customers engaged in food manufacturing and processing; fruits and vegetables fresh produce; trading of meat and poultry; and supply chain management to retail and fast food outlets.

"This development would enable the (company) to further enhance its core business without having the burden of high capital-intensive investment for its logistics," Concepcion said.

Iglo Philippines. is a 60-40 partnership between the Concepcion family and Malaysia's Iglo (Integrated Global Low-Temperature Operations) International Ltd.

Iglo treasurer Ramon M. Lopez said the additional terminal brings Iglo's total investments in the country to P350 million.

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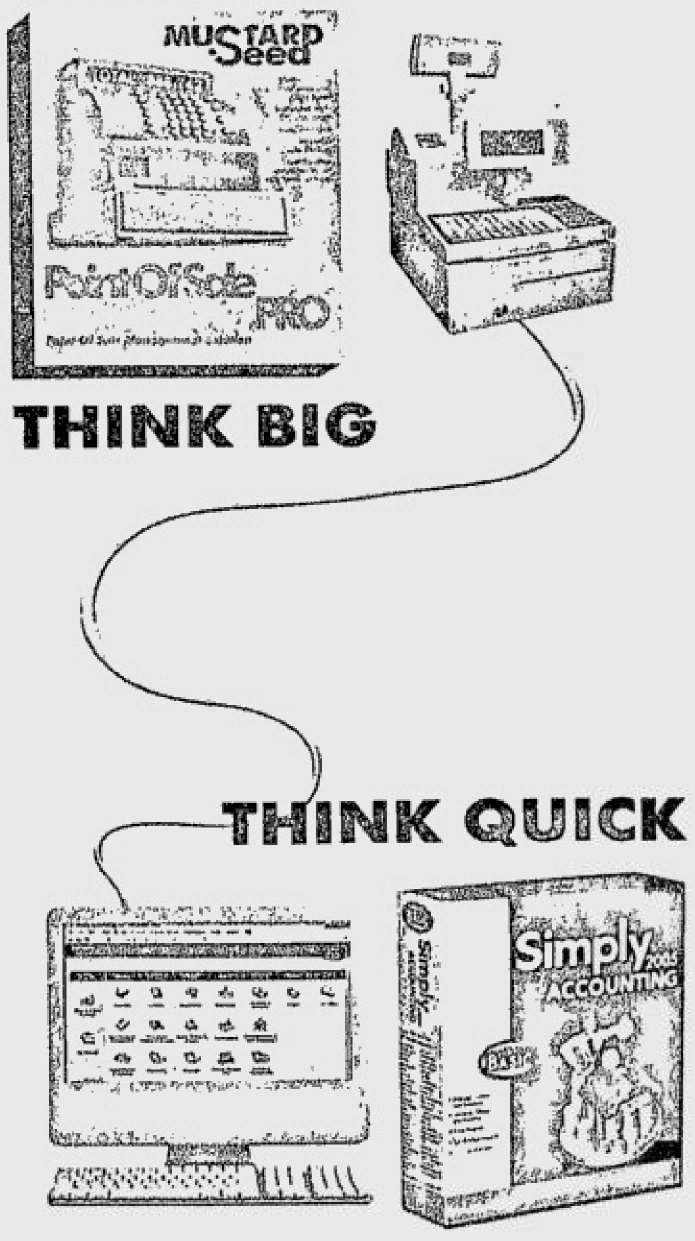

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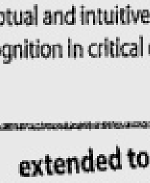

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IIA The Institute of Internal Auditors - Philippines

58th ANNUAL CONVENTION

'The Internal Auditor: In the SPOTLIGHT'

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings of welcome to the officers and members of the Institute of Internal Auditors who have happily chosen Boracay Island as the venue of their 58th Annual Convention, October 19-21, 1005.

Indeed, the convergence of their 150 delegates during the three days is a big boost to our tourism industry.

Auditors – be they in government of the private sector – are a crucial component of our National development efforts. The maximal and prudent use of our country's meager resources as we endeavor to attain our nation-building objectives would depend on the competence and the integrity of our auditors.

Corruption is pandemic. It's not just in government but in private business as well, the bedrock of our economy, but with a corps of commited auditors steeped in correct values, we will ultimately realize our dreams of national prosperity. Best Wishes!

HON. CARLITO S. MARQUEZ
Provincial Governor, Province of Aklan, Kalibo, Aklan

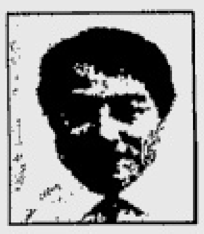
As the 2005-2006 chairman of The IIA Board of Directors, I am honored to have the opportunity to send greetings and best wishes to you. Your 58th annual conference provides the perfect time to reflect on IIA-Philippines' rich and distinguished history, one that has focused on serving both your members and the profession of internal auditing with enthusiasm. Your formation more than half a century ago makes you one of The Institute's longest standing affiliates. Throughout your existence, you have exemplified our motto of "Progress through Sharing" attracting more than 1,000 members to your organization and achieving a consistently stellar retention rate. This serves as a true testament to the value you bring to the professional development of your members. On behalf of the more than 107,000 IIA members around the globe, I congratulate you on all of your accomplishments to date!

Your conference theme, *The Internal Auditor: In the Spotlight*, sheds light on the critical point at which we as internal audit professionals have reached in today's business arena. We are facing an intensely complex business environment that places ever-increasing demands in internal auditors. However, with great responsibility comes great reward. If we continue to keep our promise, as my chairman's theme suggests, and practice internal auditing in accordance with the Standards and our Code of Ethics, we will have served our communities and our profession as well.

Your organization's history of strong and unwavering commitment to propelling the profession forward is impressive. Earning the 2003 IMAP Award is just one example of your diligence. You should take tremenddus pride in having worked so energetically to educate practitioners and the business community at large about issues relating to the internal audit profession. This conference is evidence of your commitment to ensure that internal auditing continues to play its rightful role in the business community within your region.

The dedication of your membership and the vision of your leadership have significantly contributed toward accomplishing The IIA's global objectives. You are a shining example of how we, as internal auditors, are rising to the challenge of today's demanding marketplace and "keeping our promise" to our stakeholders. I look forward to witnessing more growth and accomplishments of IIA-Philippines as your future unfolds. Enjoy the Conference!

THOMAS J. WARGA, CIA
2005 Chairman of the Board, IIA Inc.
Senior Vice President and General Auditor, New York Life Insurance Company



"Magandang hapon"

On behalf of the Asian Confederation of the Institute of Internal Auditors, it gives me a great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the IIA Philippines, sponsors, guest speakers, panelists, and participants of the IIA Philippines's 2005 Boracay Convention, being held at the beach capital of the Philippines from October 19 to 21.

It has been a year since I met many of you at the ACIIA conference in Cebu. It was a wonderful and rewarding experience to meet my fellow internal audit practitioners, academia, consultants and regulators in Philippines and friends from other Asian countries under the one roof. Once again we will have a great opportunity to share our knowledge, exchange our ideas, and learn from our experience so that we can all help our organization to achieve better corporate governance and risk management.

The theme for the last ACIIA conference was "Striking a Balance." I am exited to see how well all of our friends in the IIA Philippines have managed to strike your balance between professional and private life in last 12 months. I realized you should have been addressing the theme quite well since you are able to mix your education with fun at the beach resort of beautiful Boracay.

I will see you at the conference, and please do not hesitate to stop me for a chat or question at the conference as I am so exited to see all of you again.

Please enjoy the conference, and I wish the IIA Philippines a very successful conference.

NAOHIRO MOURI, CIA
President, Asian Confederation of the Institute of Internal Auditors

The highlight of every president's term is the national convention which we hold each October. In my years with the Institute, we have moved the convention in various venues which represent the inherent warmth and hospitality of the Filipino. My work has brought me to interesting places all over the world but none could equal the serenity and the laid back ambiance of Boracay, truly a haven to hibernate, "sharpen our saw" and stay attuned to the developments in the internal audit profession.

This year's theme, "The Internal Auditor: In the Spotlight", captures the very essence of a profession which has been forced to emerge from the sidelines, step into the limelight and be counted as a proponent of corporate transparency, accountability and corporate control. It is a role that has never been so challenging and challenged by not one but many stakeholders. As the organizing committee and the Board of Directors of the Institute debated the various topics for the convention, we have only the internal auditor's best interest in mind. We want him to be ready for a rough ride ahead.

Topics that we have never even talked about like environmental audits, forensics and computer fraud, IT strategy, the impacts of regulatory requirements from other shores are just a flavor of what to expect. Our convention would never be complete if we are also not kept abreast of what management expects of us in this evolving times. We have invited some of our corporate tycoons and known business and government personalities to give us their thoughts about our profession. A fitting finale to the convention is the topic "Humor at Work". Filipinos are probably the most resilient of all nations. We can laugh off our problems and at ourselves.

I welcome everyone to this year's National convention in Boracay specially our friends from the region. I am flattered by their interest to come back to our shores and grace our convention. My special thanks go to the members of the organizing committee, the board of directors and the secretariat who worked very hard to put the program and events together.

Actively participate in the technical sessions and enjoy the beaches of Boracay while networking with colleagues and new found friends. Together as a profession, my hope is that we can weather the rough ride ahead.

Warmest Welcome to all,

ROSSANA S. JAVIER, CPA, CIA, CCSA, CFE
2005 President, IIA - Philippines
Partner, Isla, Lipana & Co.

On behalf of the Convention Committee, it gives us pleasure to welcome the sponsors, delegates, speakers and guests to the 58th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors – Philippines in this beautiful island of Boracay, Aklan Province.

This most anticipated yearly gathering has been a venue in sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, benchmarking and renewing and making new friends in the profession. For this year, the convention committee has organized a meaningful and stimulating program with distinguished keynote speakers, relevant topic presentations from acclaimed local and foreign speakers who are experts in their fields, social events and to be concluded by a tour of the island. Discussions will focus on important issues such as Sarbanes Oxley and corporate governance, treasury risk management, control self assessment (CSA), fraud and computer forensics, environmental, health and safety standards, management's expectations on Internal Audit, a special topic on IT, soft skills and a presentation on the Asian Region developments in IA, among others.

The theme "Internal Auditor in the Spotlight" aptly describes the eminence that the practitioners and the profession have attained. We're seeing internal auditors becoming much more proactive. We rely on internal auditors as being integral to the company, as skilled experts in the art of internal controls. We've been telling audit committees "rely on us to tell you what the risks are and to give you the controls to mitigate those risks. We've been telling management that we can provide assurance that systems are in place and working, Now that we've created the expectation, we've got to be able to live up to the demand for it.

As chairman, it is my wish that from the lessons we get in this convention all participants may be able to internalize the most important part of our fundamental role which is to provide the organization with assurance on governance, risk management and internal control processes.

Once again, I would like to welcome all of you and may you have a rewarding and pleasant stay in Boracay.

AMADOR A RACPAN, MBA, CPA, CIA, CFSA
Chairman, 2005 Annual Convention
Assistant Vice-President, Philam Life Insurance Company

The SPOTLIGHT will be focused on 150 internal auditors as they converge in the sparkling and magnificent beaches of Boracay for the 58th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors – Philippines. In what is becoming a progressively fast-paced and evolving business environment, internal audit practitioners need a stimulating haven, far from the hassles of city life, to "sharpen their saw". From October 19 to 21, the Boracay Regency will play host to internal audit professionals as they reflect on their critical role as assurance specialist and consultants to Management and the Audit Committee.

The CAMERA is poised to capture subject matter experts who will engage participants in recent practices guidance, insights and issues. The likes of David Rule, Constancio Ongpin, Leonardo Matignas, Jr., Christian Lauron, Leandro Bautista, Joseph Ostermann, Greg Vallejera, Jr., Leandro Severino and Rossana Javier can all be counted to "deliver the goods" on the podium. They will surely razzle-dazzle the audience with topics on forensics and computer fraud, developments on Sarbanes Oxley and control self-assessment, information technology's link to business strategy and internal audit, environmental auditing, treasury risks and internal audit implications of compliance to the new International Accounting Standards.

Topping the extravaganza of speakers is none other than ACIIA President Naohiro Mouri, who will update participants on matters pertaining to IIA, Inc. and regional IIA chapters. After all that savvy, participants will be given a full comic massage from two award-winning Toastmasters who will help internal auditors "add humor to their work".

More ACTIONS await convention partakers as IIA-P puts on center-stage those who recently hurdled the November 2004 and May 2005 examinations for Certified Internal Auditors, Certificates in Control Self-Assessment and Certified Financial Services Auditors. At sundown, IIA-P moves to the beat of Boracay's nocturnal exploits as it regales internal auditors with acoustic entertainment and a live band that will surely keep spectators jamming all night long, unless the allure o the beach hypnotizes them first! The final stroke will be an island expedition that is certain to cater to the adventurous palate of internal auditors.

The IIA-P conference has always been a unique experience that's designed to challenge the mind, jiggle the bones and pamper soul. The script is final and the scene all set. So, what are you waiting for? Let the show begin!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

By: Mary Jane O. Rosales, IIA-P VP – Professional Development
Petron Corporation

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2005 IIA-P Board of Directors thanks its members for the opportunity to lead the Institute in facing the challenges of the profession. The ladies from left: Ana Luisa S. Lim, Internal Audit Head, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation; Edna G. De Leon, VP Chief Internal Auditor, Rustan Commercial Corporation; Susan S. Domingo, Audit Manager, International Container Terminal Services Inc; Helen T. De Guzman, VP & Head Corporate Audit & Compliance, MERALCO; Rossana S. Javier, Partner, Isla Lipana & Co.; Araceli E. Ona, AVP & Director for Audit & Mgt. Services Division, St. Luke's Medical Center; Richel D. Mendoza, Head Internal Audit/QA; The gentlemen from left: Raymund S. Mungkal, Chief Finance Officer, Ginebra San Miguel; Dante P. Soriano, Managing Partner, Soriano Soriano & Co.; Leonardo J. Matignas, Jr., Partner, SGV & Co.; Reginald C. Nery, Partner, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co. ; Not in the picture: Michael C. Gallego, Manager SOX UK and Europe, Internal Control CEMEX UK; Mary Jane O. Rosales, Area Finance Officer, Petron Corporation; Lilian S. Linsangan, Partner, Punongbayan & Araullo, CPA's; Jun E. Nicanor, Controller & Asst. CFO, Hedcor, Inc.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DBP

Philam Plans to get P500M in fresh capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

CUISIA

LEADING INSURER PHILIPPINE AMERICAN Life & General Insurance Co. Inc. (Philamlife) is set to infuse P500 million in fresh capital to Philam Plans, making it the country's highest capitalized pre-need company.

The hike in capital from P300 million to P800 million will enable Philam Plans to expand its business and cement its market leadership while sustaining its competitiveness via technology-backed service support, company officials yesterday announced.

"The additional capitalization only means that our plan holders are more assured that their pre-need company of choice, Philam Plans, will never let them down," said Philamlife president and CEO and Philam Plans chair Jose Cuisia Jr.

The financial problems encountered by big players like College Assurance Plans, Platinum Plans and Pacific Plans have adversely affected public perception of the pre-need industry.

Philam Plans is the country's top performing pre-need company in terms of sales, controlling 22 percent of the total market. It is also the dominant provider of education plans with a 39-percent share of the country's education plan sales from January to July this year.

"We are taking this momentous step ... because it is both the responsive and responsible thing to do," Philam Plans president Jesus Hofilena said. "Our response to the preneed crisis is precisely to express our unwavering belief in the viability of the pre-need profession by increasing our stake in the business."

Education and pension plans each account for 40 percent of Philam Plans' new business. Memorial plans take up the remaining 20 percent.

Philamlife wants to raise the authorized capital of Philam Plans from P300 million to P1.5 billion. It has already filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The pre-need unit has close to 800,000 plan holders who are backed by P16.9 billion in trust funds, the biggest and most liquid in the industry.

Philam Plan's business performance is difficult to match.

Unlike other pre-need companies that lost their viability, Philam Plans limited its product offerings to fixed value plans and went against the business norm in 1989 when competitors were flooding the market with open-ended plans.

Today, the fixed value product model has proven to be the only sustainable pre-need plan in the market, Cuisia said.

In 1994, the company introduced the lapse free plan with the launch of the Gintong Yaman pre-need certificate, ensuring Filipinos with limited income of a secure and systematic way to save for the future.

GOINGS-ON

Polish miners

TOP OFFICIALS OF POLISH COPPER COMPANY KGHM Polska Miedz S.A. came to the Philippines recently to explore the possibility of investing in the country's mining sector.

The delegation, accompanied by Hexagon Capital managing partner Dariusz Wiatr, was composed of KGHM chief executive officer Stanislaw Siewierski, company vice president and board member Andrzej Krug, director general for investment and development Zbigniew Bryja and director for new initiatives Herbert Wirth.

Krug also attended the Asia-Pacific Mining Conference held in Makati on Oct. 12-13.

The delegation also visited the site of the planned Tampakan mine in General Santos, South Cotabato.

Members of the team also met with executives of Benguet Corp.

Entrepreneurship forum

HOW SOON SHOULD YOUNG PEOPLE BE taught how to run a business? Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose Concepcion III thinks it is never too early, even for children in grade school, to learn the basics and be exposed to a real enterprise.

Together with the Department of Education, Concepcion will showcase some of the current thinking and relevant learning models during a forum entitled "Entrepreneurship and Basic Education: Investing In Young Minds Now" on Oct. 25, 2005 from 1-4 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club Main Lounge.

All elementary and secondary school owners and administrators may join this event for free by registering at Tel. 637-9229 and 631-8101 loc. 7187 and 7188.

DepEd officer-in-charge Fe Hidalgo will outline programs of the educational system to promote entrepreneurship in the elementary and high school levels.

3-day gab for architects

THE UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES will hold a three-day conference starting tomorrow, Oct. 20, at the Family Country Hotel in General Santos City.

With "Empowerment Beyond Milestones" as conference theme, the UAP will point out emergent trends favoring the practice of architecture here and abroad, including global opportunities offered by the Apec Register.

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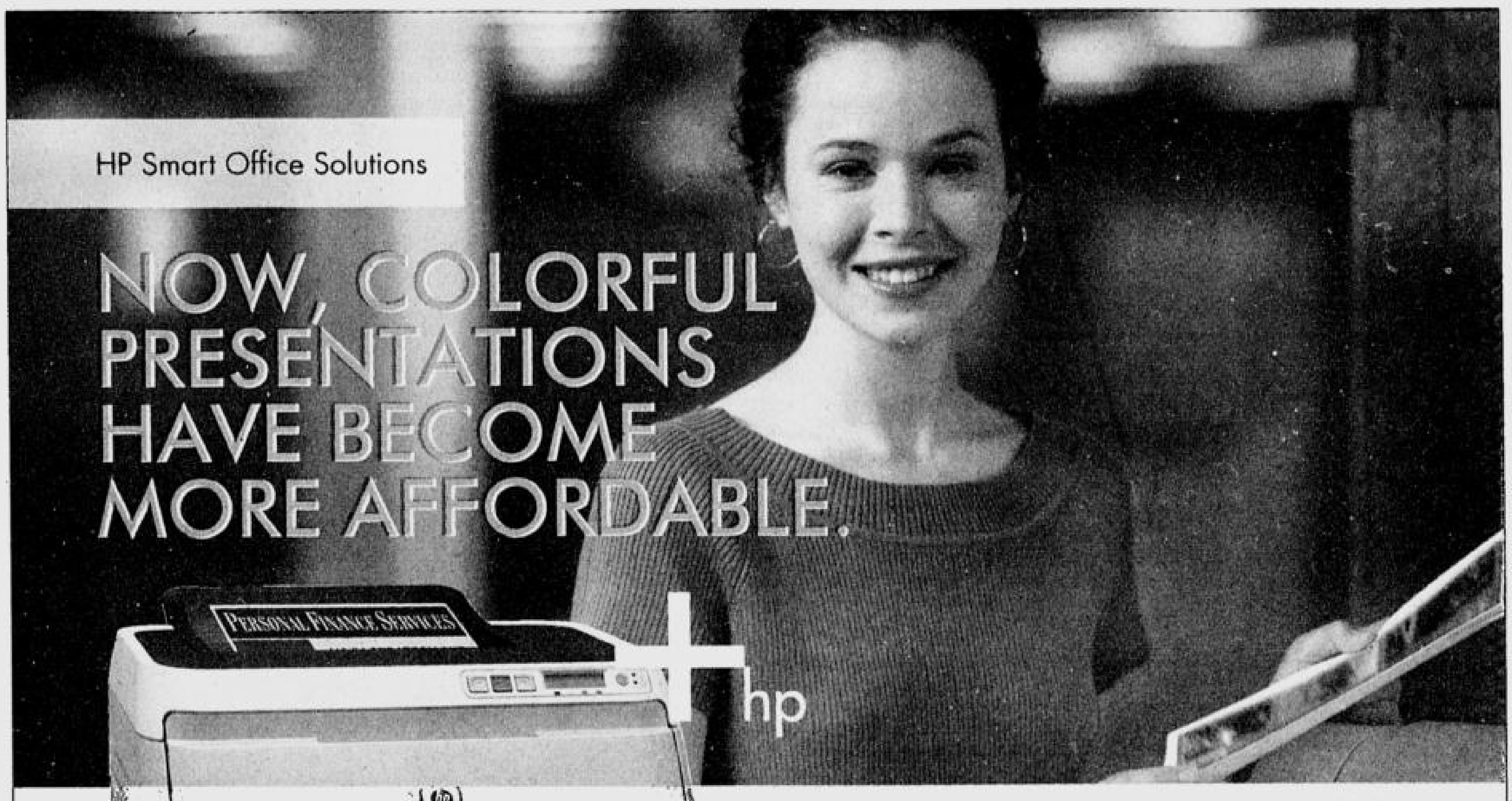
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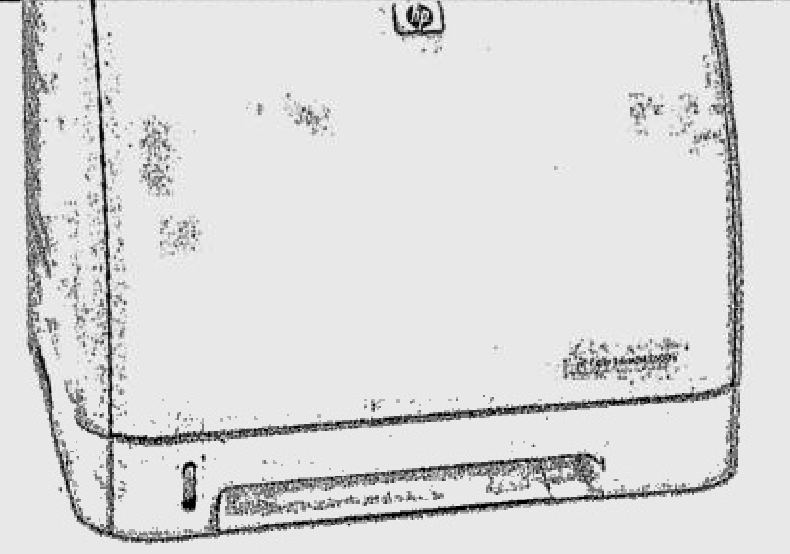

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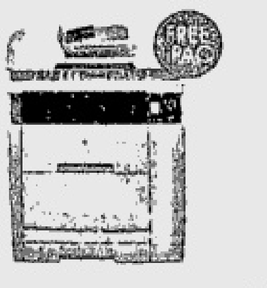

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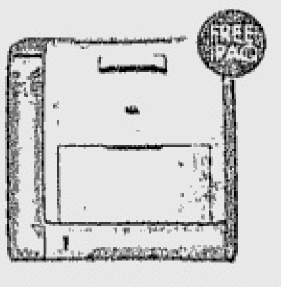

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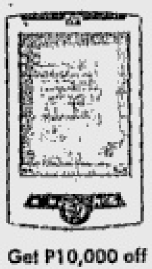

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5745, Series of 2005

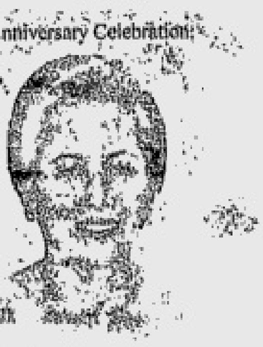
LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED,

INTEGRITY i

MESSAGES

SEC Chairman's Message

My warm greetings to Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. on the occasion of its 37th Anniversary Celebration.



As the company celebrates its anniversary with the theme, "Integrity in Excellence". It is important to recognize the hard work and dedication of every employee spe-cially the top salespeople in the company. Excellence and exemplary achievements do not just happen; these are nurtured and worked on.

Client satisfaction is also an essential factor to the success of any pre-need company in order to gain and preserve the trust of its planholders.

May this festive occasion then serve as an inspiration to everyone to achieve and do more to secure a better future for the company and its clients. In doing so, Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. will be able to maintain its goodwill in the minds and hearts of the Filipino people.

Congratulations and I wish you more fruitful years to come!

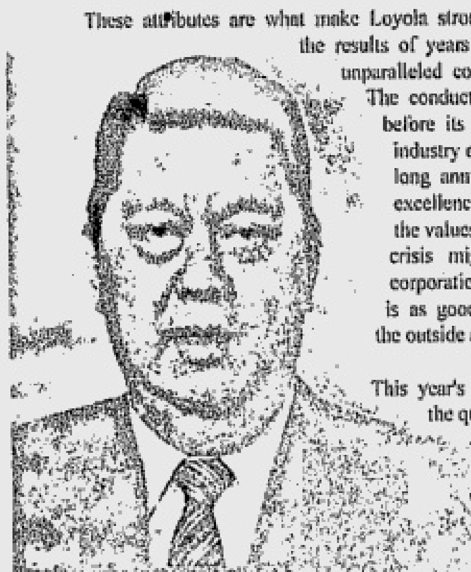
FE BARIN
Chairperson
Securities & Exchange Commission

Chairman's Message

Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc. (LPCI) has never been in a better time when it proved once again the strong fundamentals that is the core of its corporate philosophy.

Controversies recently hit the industry, shaking the foundation of companies in a test of strength and reliability. Some were not able to withstand the pressure test and bid farewell to their cause, leaving thousands of Planholders in the dark as to how to recoup not only their investment but their dreams.

Loyola stayed even closer to ts Planholders during these times providing the best comfort and assurance that made the company the real deal in this business. Topnotch service and excellent performance within the Loyola community thrive regardless of the political climate and circumstance in its 37-year history. Yet, there has never been any extraordinary exertion of remedies. Loyola's triumph over severe challenges comes from the inherent qualities of its leaders, salesforce, and managers.



These attributes are what make Loyola stronger as time goes by. Clients' preference and confidence are the results of years of building its integrity out of sound business practices and unparalleled corporate governance. Trust is earned, and cannot be demanded. The conduct and reputation of a corporation reflect the stability it holds before its clients. Naturally, amidst the raucous atmosphere that the industry experiences at present, Loyola declares celebration. In its week-long anniversary bash, winners will be recognized for their utmost excellence and unprecedented sales performance. This is reflective of the values and culture that Loyola as a corporation possesses. Recent crisis might be an acid test to determine the real color of every corporation's stability. But for Loyola, it never changes anything. for it is as good as it gets. Reliability, integrity, and excellence as seen from the outside are even greater in the inside.

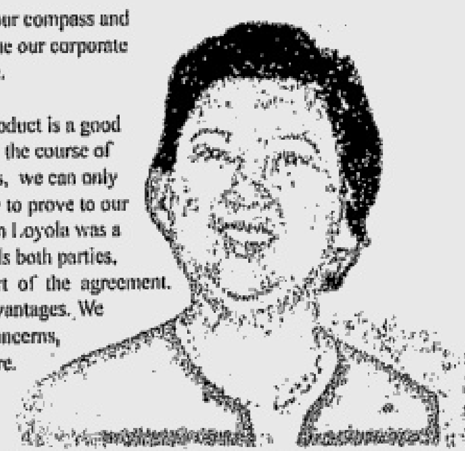
This year's winners say it all. Trophies are feathers to their hat signifying the qualities that they have as true Loyolans and genuine conquerors of the Pre-Need market. The formula is simple: "Integrity in Excellence."

Congratulations Loyola and all the winners!

GIL G. PUYAT, Jr.
Chairman, Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc

President's Message

On our 37th anniversary, we have so many blessings to acknowledge. We are grateful for the inspiration that moved our first board and officers, who foresaw the need for pre-contracted services. We thank God for the skills and perseverance of our marketing and sale force, which made Loyola a tremendous success. During these times, we are filled with gratitude for that difficult decision made back in 1981 to stop the sale of our open - ended plans. Thank you for the chance to recover from the setback caused by that decision. Gratitude fills our hearts for the current set of board mem-bers, officers, managers, employees and members of our sales force who today constitute the Loyola family. They represent a team imbued with the spirit of love and service because of whom, we honestly say that we have not failed in our commitment to our planholders. We have been able to make our founders' vision a reality. We have been able to make good on the expectation of thousands of our planholders. We have lived up to their trust.



We have been conscious of God's guiding Hand that has been our compass and we hope and pray that he will continue to help us as we continue our corporate journey of serving our countrymen in planning for a better future.

Despite the current negative perception of many, the pre-need product is a good product. The testimonials, sharings and thanks we received in the course of our daily activities confirm this. In the light of today's sentiments, we can only commit ourselves to try even harder and do things better if only to prove to our planholders that their decision to buy their pre-need product from Loyola was a good one, which they will never regret. Of course, a contact binds both parties, so we urge our planholders to conscientiously live up to their part of the agreement. This cooperation can only translate to mutual protection and advantages. We have made ourselves so available to address all planholder's concerns, not only here but also abroad, where our Loyola planholders are. We can achieve greater success by working in partnership with each other.

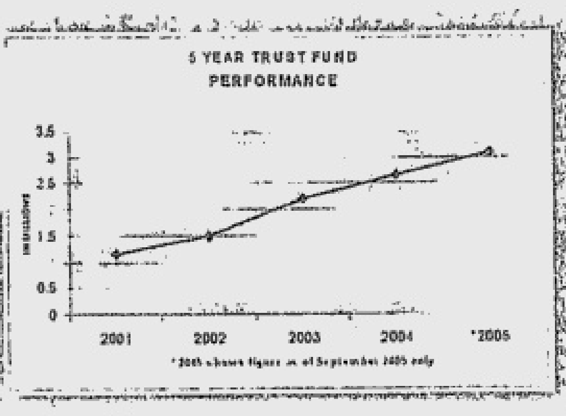
To our planholders, partners, stakeholders and stockholders, let us be one in thanking God for His help andlet us also stand together to help make a better future for all of us and this country we all love.

JESUSA PUYAT CONCEPCION
President & CEO
Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc

LOYOLA: RELIABLE PARTNER FOR THE PAST 37 YEARS

Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc. (LPCI) is no ordinary pre-need company. It is more than the usual and beyond the conventional. Loyola's special traits are worth the special attention it is getting among the pre-need circle including the Planholders and the public due to its well-established business reputation, stability, and solid-roc reliability.

The recent controversies hounding the pre-need industry could be a debilitating blow to the very foundation o pre-need itself which was expected to bring a lot of major players down to their knees. However, the company's 37 years of unblemished and sound business practices give the effect of immunity and in the process strengthe even more its impregnable stature.



Planholders all over the country were particular affected and weary when the crisis reached the p need shores. Some have good reasons to get t feeling due to doubts on the future of their mon invested in troubled pre-need companies. B most of all, they fear that the dreams and ambition their family members entrusted into the hands of th entities would be lost. Loyola's planholders on t contrary has experienced special corporate tre amidst this crisis since the company released the be fits ahead of schedule. This comforting feeling security and dependability on the part of Planhold is attributed to Loyola's careful and intelligent de sion-making.

Loyola Trust Fund is now at the P3.075 Billion mark. This was achieved through annual contributi of P441.78 Million, net of withdrawals. It reflects the sound financial management of the compa which means a guarantee that Planholders get their benefits on time.

COMBINING STABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Modern technology, despite its huge contribution in rapid business development, is normally seen as unstable d to its novelty and dependence on a lot of other volatile infrastructures. Hence, it is perceived not to sit right w the concept of stability.

Loyola however, has managed to handle this surging bull of the modern times by maximizing its benefits service department and at the same time using it to further stabilize its back end operations. Loyola takes advan of new develop-ments in the information system to reach more clients, facilitate communication, and spee service.

Blackberry technology, for example, enabled Loyola, its agents, and clients to enjoy the benefits of wireless a high-speed plan inquiry system, mobile and pocket pc combo concept, and unpara-lleled linkages with t company's main computer frames.

In Loyola offices situated nationwide, high-capability computer hardwares sporting the latest trends in d storage, processing, and retrieving are deployed to provide backbone to the thrust of creating an effecti Loyola community in the virtual space. Rendering plan services would be reduced to an almost person-to-pers level simultaneously with this technology regardless of the number of Planholders transacting. With th geographical distance becomes immaterial thus, clients from across the globe acquire the confidence and tr with Loyola never before seen in theimmediate history of the industry.

Loyola initiates and innovates within these technological innovations prompting its partners to up their respective service quality as well to match its pace. The end result, Loyola has created a network of business partners, allies, and associates operating in the same speed and service level all for the benefit of its Planholders.

These collateral services cover banking, e-commerce, financial, and administrative areas.

TOPNOTCH MANAGEMENT TEAM

Led by its President, Jesusa Puyat-Concepcion, Loyola, has taken the road less traveled in terms of manageme The team is composed of leaders in their respective fields continuously improving and recreating processes match the varying demands of the marketplace. Management principles employed are bold yet stable embody Loyola's philosophy of "integrity above all."

Strong financial foundation, seamless operation, and profitability are products of years of painstaking a conscientious management always bearing in mind the interests of the stakeholders. Planholders are alw assured of calculated decisions designed to add value to their investment. Good corporate governan progressive management style, and service-oriented initiatives gua-rantee a productive and efficient operati Combined with Loyola's rich pre-need experience and well-grounded financial policies, these managem thrusts and programs of the Loyola team will definitely redound to the benefits of its Planholders.

Notable performance for the 2004 was the continuing rise of the company's collection whi posted an increase of 11.29% over the previous year. Sales were delivered by the 6,152-stro licensed salesforce.

Loyola's Executive Committee

Congratulations Loyola on your 37th Anniversary!

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CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

Loyola recognizes not only its role as a business entity but also its part in the community. Involvement in the upliftment of the lives of the people who need assistance is one of the aims of its corporate community citizenship program called "Loyola Love.".

In 2004, Loyola provided assistance to the victims of typhoon in Infanta, Quezon. Donations in the form of basic commodities and livelihood programs were given to jumpstart the lives of those affected. Loyola is proud to be part of the recovery of the people of Infanta.

Loyola Love continues with the legacy of the program in its "Dugo Ko Buhay Mo" which is a blood-letting drive in coordination with the Philippine National Red Cross involving Loyola employees. This is very timely at this point in time when the dreaded dengue has terrorized communities.

Loyola sees business as not only a profit-seeking endeavor but entails a greater responsibility of helping people improve their lives. This is part of Loyola philosophy and core values.

NATIONAL AWARDEES

SEN. GIL PUYAT CUP AWARDEES

Alfredo Emmanuel Ampil | Rizalino Florendo | Leandro James Padua | Luis Tutaan | Raymond Gorospe | Danita Aparis | Concordia Goles | Maribel Dizon-Varua | Jeanette Perey | Lina Sabandal

GILIW AWARDEES

Adelmar Tenefrancia | Milagros Reynes | Ingrid Concepcion | Elias Sabandal | Michelle Caasi-Valenzuela | Herman Bastonero | Cherry Licup

LOYOLA CULTURE

Culture makes a country unique and distinct. Culture makes a country great. In Loyola, it is no less the same. It is what drives the company forward. Corporate culture is the engine fueled by passion for service, productivity, and performance.

Loyola culture is characterized as Action Driven, Market Oriented, Innovators, Persevering in Adversity, Trust in Team Work, Accountability is Everybody's Responsibility, Honesty at Work, Steeped in Humility, Balance in Life, and God Fearing.

In line with its business philosophy and vision, Loyola, in its 37th year anniversary, remains strong, more stable, and productive. In its anniversary celebration, Loyola makes another mark in the pre-need history as it reemphasizes its adherence to "Integrity in Excellence."

HIYAS AWARDEES

Porferia Claveria | Noehlan Joseph Ondoy | Alicia Aparece | Thelma Balboa | Andrea Salvo

SINAG AWARDEES

Consuelo Saria | Michael Quieng

LOYALTY AWARDEES

Milagros Reynes
35 Years

Emma Marquez
30 Years

Salvacion Apostol
30 Years

Virginia Isanan
30 Years

Corazon Yancha
30 Years

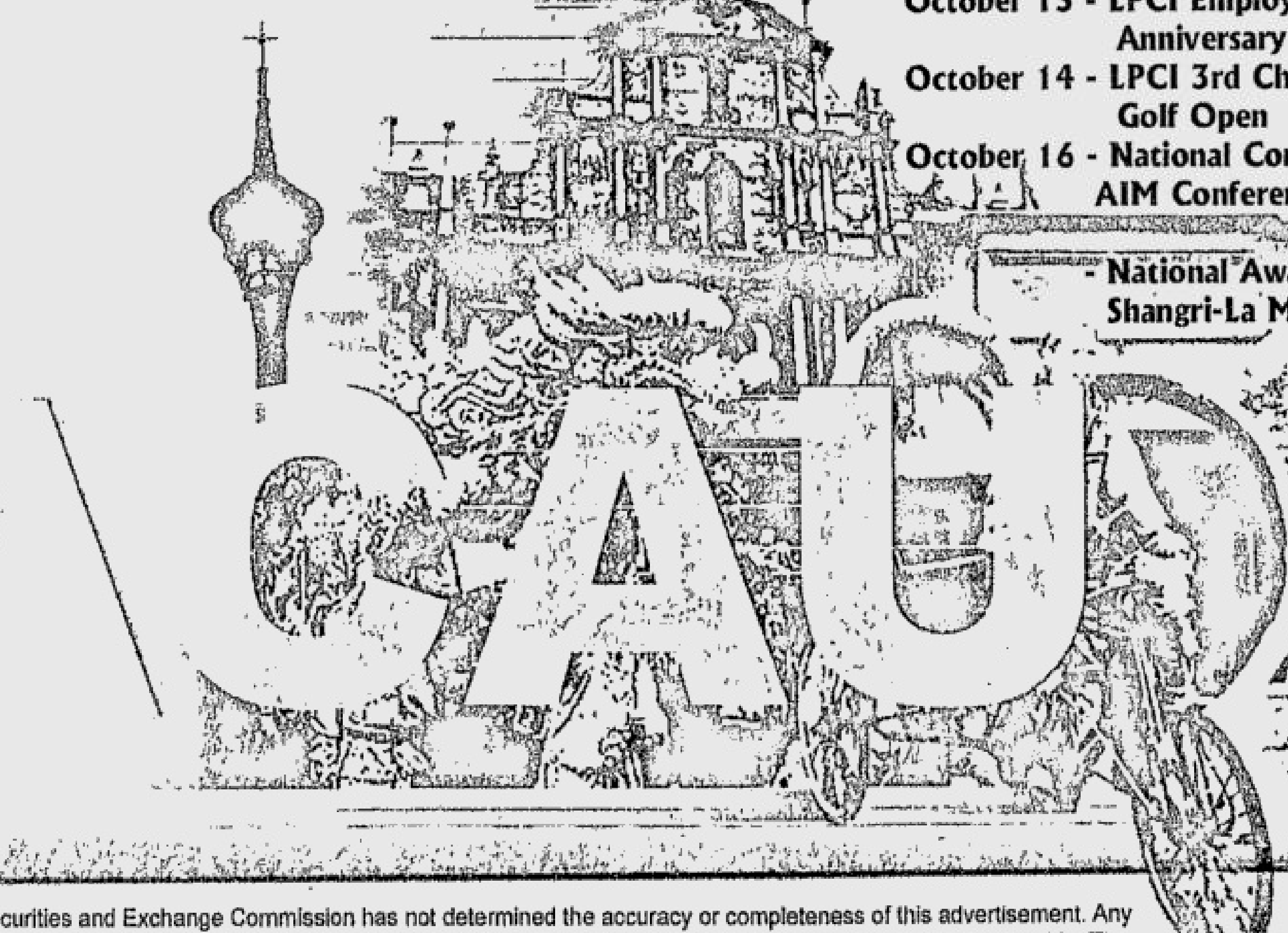
Ma. Socorro Barreda
25 Years

Julia Torreja
25 Years

Desideria Fabella
25 Years

Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc.
37th Anniversary Celebration

October 12 - LPCI Motorcade
October 13 - LPCI Employees Anniversary Party
October 14 - LPCI 3rd Charity Golf Open
October 16 - National Convention AIM Conference Center
- National Awards Shangri-La Makati



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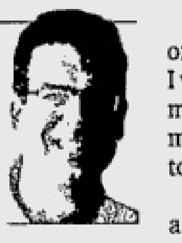
How to become the person who works inside the system

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner



DEAR READERS: I GOT THE FOLlowing e-mail from a reader who went from being a "rebel" to being a "mole" (he defines a mole as someone who works alongside his boss to make change from the inside). I think his e-mail raises interesting questions about the best way to really change an organization.

Dear WW: Are you having trouble with your boss? Is your boss making bad decisions? Are you the one with all of the answers?

I felt that I had great answers, so I became the rebel of my organization. I spoke out and made myself heard. It was fun and relieved my tension. The group actually appreciated it. However, after a while, I realized my boss didn't, and that he could deny certain privileges in my job—going to seminars, books and other perks.

You see in my boss's eyes, I was a troublemaker who no longer deserved those privileges that a good employee should get. Since I was a troublemaker, the boss listened to me less and less. A rebel was nothing more than a spoiled brat and after a while, no one listens to a spoiled brat.

I decided to rethink my position on being a rebel. In the meantime, I was reading books on leadership, management, supervision, how to make the work place fun, and how to deal with difficult people.

Overtime, I realized my boss was a human being just like the rest of us who was just trying to survive. I realized the best way I could make a difference in the workplace was to become a part of the team. And this included my boss. I learned my boss was simply trying to make decisions without trusted, well-informed people around him. Since I have read so many books and knew the division so well, the well-informed part was easy. So I rebuilt my bridge of communication, which helped build the trust needed to be a part of the team.

I then took it to the next level and started partnering with my boss. I was able to affect some of the decisions that had to be made. In the process of doing this, I learned that being a boss is a difficult job. Sometimes, you just can't explain your decision to the group and when you do, what took hours to hash out is hard to sum up in just a few minutes and have the team come to the same conclusion.

Sure, it was fun to shout from the outside. But I learned that you can accomplish a lot more by going on the inside. People tend to circle the wagons when attacked from the outside. But it's a different story when constructive feedback comes from someone on the inside. I have become a mole and now I make a difference.

With my increased knowledge and ability to communicate effectively, I too may some day become the boss. Ironically, I will then be the very thing that I rebelled against.

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

How to take charge of your learning

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM AN AVID READER OF your advice column and I truly find your articles very helpful for anxious working people like myself. I am currently a store manager of one of the leading boutiques in the country. I have been in the industry for five years now. I am currently looking at possibilities for a promotion or maybe exploring other career opportunities.

The last five years have been spent solely on managing the store, I have not had time to attend seminars or talks or any kind of training to help me build my competencies. I also cannot afford an MBA or masters for now.

What kind of training do you think I should attend given my line of work? How long will these kinds of trainings be? Since we operate during mall hours, it's really hard for me to schedule trainings or seminars. Thank you very much. I would greatly appreciate your advice.

Store Manager

We are fortunate. We live in a decade where the source of power is information and education. Never in the lifetime of man has learning resources exploded and expanded to a phenomenal degree as today. Knowledge is everywhere and technology is facilitating our means of getting to it and using it.

George Eliot says, "The strongest principle of growth lies in human choice." As a self-directed learner, you can, in fact, select your own learning goals, choose the best learning resources and evaluate the results of your learning program.

Learning agenda

Now where do you begin? First, determine your vision, what is your next career move? What promotion are you after? Your vision is important because it can shape your learning agenda. It has to focus on learning that should work to address both your current and future job needs.

Then proceed to do your own learning needs analysis. Ask yourself, "what knowledge do I want to acquire?" This knowledge can either be in a specialized technical area like boutique display or in learning how to manage people more productively or in a functional area like understanding accounting for nonaccountants. Make a list and prioritize the items.

You can then move to outline the skills you want to master. What specific areas do you want to be proficient in? Do you want to learn new computer software or the art of managing time or improve on your English fluency?

The other possible area you want to grow in would be in particular attitudes and behaviors. Examples of learning goals are: to have a mindset that welcomes rather than resists change; how to listen empathically to your boss and subordinates; or how to be more accepting of diversity.

Search for training

Once you have set your learning goals, you can now search for learning and training opportunities to strengthen your knowledge, skills and attitudes. Where do you begin? Choose specific tasks and assignments with the objective to learn from them. I started as a trainer by accepting invitations to talk on communications. I offered to set up and design the curriculum for a training and development center and learned the valuable skill of project management.

Then, on a day-to-day basis at work, sustain your enthusiasm and hunger for learning and growth. One habit you can acquire is to force yourself to read once a week a book that can help you get new insights into your work. Find 30 minutes a day to read a chapter. If you get bored with reading a single book, you can read a book while commuting and another book during lunch break. Or you can search the Web for information on your topic of interest.

Another useful technique is to seek feedback from your boss or peers. If you are working with colleagues on a project, find pit stops to assess work progress as well as the level of teamwork in the group. You can then work on improving your behavioral blind spot. You can also enhance your analytical ability by mastering the art of asking strategic questions.

Short courses

You mentioned short-term training programs. Considering your time and financial constraints, short-term training may be one of the best structured, learning resources you can tap. You can get concentrated know-how in one or two-day's time. You can get in touch with the Ancilla Business Training Center to find out our public offerings for the quarter. I also want to share with you the good news that by mid-November, Ancilla, in cooperation with Netopia Internet Cafe will be offering reasonably priced one-day training programs at Robinson's Galleria Mall in Ortigas. If your store is in this mall, then the programs and schedules may prove convenient to you.

Let me end with a quotation from George Powell, "Once you stop learning, you are dead." I toast your desire to be a lifetime learner. Thank you and God bless.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancilla-edc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

Understanding patents is key to reducing price of medicines

By Ime Morales Aznar
Contributor

WHEN FILIPINOS GET SICK, many of them cannot afford the high prices of medicines available here. The Department of Health (DOH) had stated before that the cost of medicines in the Philippines is 40 to 70 percent higher compared to prices in other Asean countries. Any effort to lower the costs of drugs would, therefore, be welcome and appreciated.

Michael Francis A. dela Cruz, president of Philippine Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry (PCPI), reveals that a patent is a very important factor in the campaign to lower drug prices. "If you understand patents, you can develop alternatives to expensive medicines," he says.

According to Dela Cruz, the best way to lower the price of medicines is to take out the barriers to competition. Some of these barriers are finance, distribution, patents and regulation. "Let's look at one barrier, patent, and study the flexibilities allowed by the patent law in relation to public health," he says, "If you understand patent, you have a framework by which you can bring in competition to the market very quickly."

Nature of patents

Patent laws are the same worldwide. According to Dela Cruz, it is "agreed by the whole world, we (the Philippines) are a signatory to the World Trade Organization." When a product is patented, the normal notion is that it is restricted. "We normally think that when a product is patented, you cannot touch it," he explains.

The real nature of patents, however, is not restrictive, but developmental. "When you patent a product, the information on that creation is made public; a patent encourages development, the information is there to be studied, for the benefit of mankind," Dela Cruz states.

But there is one area that is somehow limiting, and which, if addressed, would spell the difference between costly drugs and affordable medicines for the masses. "Drug manufacturers have a 20-year monopoly on a patented product—other manufacturers can't do anything, not even research nor even develop a generic equivalent," he says. When the 20-year monopoly is up, only then can other manufacturers come up with an alternative to the original product. New research can only start then, and that means another three or four years of exclusivity for the original manufacturer.

"We are trying to have a law that will allow the early entry of generic equivalents to patented drugs," says Dela Cruz. "We are working with Senator Mar Roxas and Senator Pia Cayetano, and some congressmen, to amend the law, to allow the generic manufacturers to start researching on the product before its patent expires. So when it does expire, they are ready to go into the market the day after," he clarifies. Dela Cruz claims that once competition is introduced into the market, the "price (will go) down by 50 percent."

First IPR, public health forum

To provide the needed information about the patent law, and to understand the flexibilities allowed by it, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, in collaboration with the DOH, Bureau of Food and Drugs and the PCPI are bringing in international speakers for a two-day forum to be held at the Intercontinental Manila on Oct. 20 to 21. Dela Cruz says, "By bringing in these speakers, we can understand the barriers (to competition) and we can find a solution to prevent the barriers from stopping us to move on."

The First Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health Forum in the Philippines aims to link the understanding of IP (patents, trademarks, copyrights) with public health. "This linkage is important to understand," Dela Cruz reasons, "because if you don't understand it, it may lead to unnecessary high prices of products."

The forum will broaden the knowledge and understanding of policymakers, legislators, government regulators, consumers, the local pharmaceutical sector, and other stakeholders on the relationship between Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and public health, and more specifically, the issue of affordability of and access to medicines.

Speakers include experts from the World Health Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization, renowned expert in IPR and public health, Prof. Carlos Correa, and consumer rights advocate James Love. Participants will assess the impact of the Philippine Generics Law of 1988 in making medicines more affordable, as well as issues relating to parallel importation of patented drugs in the Philippines, particularly with respect to HIV/AIDS drugs. Representatives from the Philippine pharmaceutical industry will also share their experiences in drug development, manufacturing and marketing within the context of the intellectual property system and discuss regulatory and financing reforms related to bringing new drugs to the Philippine market. Finally, it is expected that a national IP strategy on public health to be submitted to the President will result from this dialogue.

(*Send feedback to* blubitel@yahoo.com)

Guidance counselors talk about their true calling

By Raissa Claire Rivera
Contributor

ON THE SPOT

(Continued from Oct. 12)

PEOPLE AT WORK (PAW): WHAT are some of the challenges you face as guidance counselors here in the Ateneo?

Jayson Tan: Getting the students to talk to us.

Willi Baclao: For me, the parents-some parents are in more need of counseling than their kids. And the role of the parents is really so important. We cannot really help the kids if the parents will not cooperate with us.

Benedict Balaoing: For the students to really see us as someone they can talk to. There's still this stigma of if you go to a counselor there's something wrong with you. But we're better off here in Ateneo than in some schools. In some schools, they still use guidance counselors as discipline officers. How can the students open up to you if they see you as someone who will scold or discipline them?

Ed Caligner: Well, for me, I've worked with some students with special needs. Most of the boys are bright, have at least average or higher than average IQs but there are some who are special... those who have problems relating to other people or have learning disabilities.

PaW: What is your reaction to the DepEd's mandate requiring licensure exams for guidance counselors?

Balaoing: It's not a reaction; we were the ones who lobbied for it. It's a law that has been 10 years in the making.

Caligner: Some people think that anybody can be a counselor. Well, anyone could counsel but a professional counselor is something else.

Baclao: I'm taking courses right now in preparation for that and I have observed that the schools are trying to help us get our credentials. So that's good, that the schools are responding to the need to professionalize counseling.

PaW: What skills do you think are needed to become a professional counselor?

Marlon Buena: Theories, development-appropriate techniques, in the particular context.

Carlo Carlon: But aside from the skills and theories, because we can learn these, I think what is important is the character of the counselor, the personality. You might have memorized all the theories and be able to apply them but if the students perceive you as someone who is not approachable or is not caring or open to them, not accepting, it is useless even if you study.

Balaoing: I would like to stress those two points mentioned by my colleagues earlier. First the skills. For me, basically, the skill is for the counselor to really analyze the problem of the student and having done that, to be able to come up with options, possibilities for the student, for his client to choose from. That's the number one skill. But number two, which is far more important than any other skills I would say, based on my experience as head counselor, in the end, it will really boil down into the character, into the person of the counselor, in the same manner as the teacher. There should always be congruence between what you say and what you are, in what you stand for. And these are the things the boys could really hold on to when things get worse.

PaW: How do you want the students to see you?

Tan: I'd like to see them as an older brother, someone that... the respect is still there, but the relationship is not so formal. Someone who is able to help them, who understands what they're going through.

Balaoing: As a father. Well, in terms of age, I could be their father. But, more than that, a father who is someone who they can talk to, who can guide them in what they want to do. As guidance counselors, our job is to talk to them about their problems but not to solve their problems for them. We tell them, "These are your options" and the boy must be the one to choose. We do not tell them what to do with their life.

Caligner: As a friend. Someone who has been through what they've been through and who can advise them. And as a role model. I want them to see counseling as a helping profession. Very often some boys will ask me, "Sir, what is it exactly that you do?" I tell them, "Well, I work with serious cases," and they cannot relate. They do not realize that just by talking to them, getting them to talk to me, that I am doing my job.

PaW: Would you say guidance counseling is a vocation?

Carlon: I think not everybody can be a counselor, just as not everybody can be a teacher, an effective teacher. I would consider it as a vocation, as long as you respond generously to that calling of helping other people.

Balaoing: For me, it's obvious that counseling is a vocation because if one really intends to become a counselor, he really has to think about the meaning, the happiness, the fulfillment that he gets out of the profession. For me, I've been in the setup for the past 14 years and I would say... I can even look at myself and think even 20 years from now I would retire with this job.

PaW: Overall, how do you feel about being a guidance counselor?

Baclao: Considering all the things I do, counseling is the most rewarding experience, even more intimate than teaching.

Balaoing: We are really privileged because the students let us into their lives.

Caligner: They come to you as persons, with their kalokohan (mischief) and all.

(*E-mail feedback to* rais1724@yahoo.com)

Southeast Asia photo show at Glorietta

A SOUTHEAST ASIA-WIDE PHOTO show and convention will be held from Feb. 9 to 14 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF), Photoworld Manila is touted as the most comprehensive photo show in the Philippines. It will showcase the latest products and accessories for photographers. PWM is now on its 12th year.

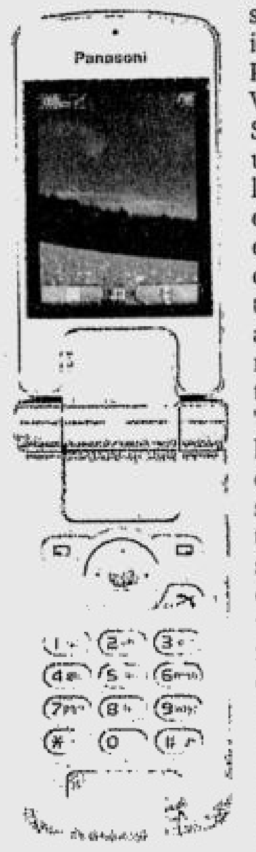
May Borlaza, PWM 2006 chair, said Glorietta is an ideal venue because it is a favorite shopping mall in Metro Manila. Catherine R. Bengzon, advertising and promotion manager of Ayala Center, said that about 500,000 people-mostly class A and B-visit Glorietta daily.

Borlaza said the theme of this year's celebration is "Focus on the Future." Top foreign and local photograph experts will share their techniques in portrait, news coverage, glamour, wedding, travel, industrial, and digital photography at the seminars at the Asian Institute of Management.

The P2,000 early bird rate is until Nov. 15. Students are entitled to a special rate of P2,000. For the barkada rate, one in a group of 11 is free of charge.

For more details, call FPPF at 843-5341, 813-7420, or 844-5661 and look for Lerma Aquino or Boy Capala, or visit the FPPF offices at the 7th floor of Comfoods Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Fun and fashionable phones



THE VS2-COPPER

FROM THEIR CUMBERSOME PREDEcessors to the slender new hybrids, cell phones are still regarded first and foremost as a tool for mobile communication. But with Panasonic's latest slim and sleek issues-the Panasonic VS2, Panasonic VS3 and Panasonic SC3-cell phones have become the new statements of hip style and fashion savvy. Panasonic's VS2, VS3 and SC3 boast of ultra-streamlined silhouettes that nevertheless pack cutting-edge technology and wider-ranging functions.

"These new handsets epitomize Panasonic's desire to give consumers more creative options to communicate. The design, the functions and the technology that support these styles have been created to allow users to further personalize the way they express themselves," says Hiroshi Otani, Panasonic Philippines' director for system sales.

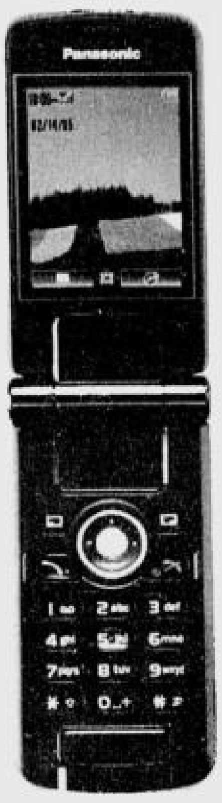
The VS2 and VS3 are the epitome of design elegance. The slim clamshell handsets are made sleek by its gently contoured corners. The compact design of these models belies the power the VS2 and VS3 pack. Both boast of 16 million colors on the display that can be illuminated by as much as 300 candela per square meter for pictures, images and wallpapers that come naturally alive.

This compliments the VS2 and VS3's built-in camera of whopping 1.3 megapixels. The camera gives users a choice of macro or normal shooting that can perform as much as 15 consecutive shots. On macro mode, the camera has the ability to perform a digital zoom of four times. Aside from taking still photos, the VS2 and VS3 also come with a video recording and play mode. Making these handsets a veritable entertainment center are the 40 polyphonic ringtones, plus the more high-fidelity grooves the owner can add in the music gallery because the model is MP3 capable.

Both the VS2 and VS3 offer a more creative way to communicate with color by letting the user be aware of a message's mood even before opening it. The indicator flashes in different colors and patterns depending on the emoticons used in a received message. Design-wise, both epitomize youthful snappiness with its Push Auto Open feature. All it takes to pop open the handsets is a light touch of the button near the hinge...without harm to the nails. You can set to ON to receive a call or read short messages automatically by just opening the phone.

Those who seek the thrill of digital conquests will do well to check the VS2 and VS3's built-in fun Sega game inside. The exclusive Sonic "The Hedgehog" and Soccer will surely make for hours of non-stop excitement.

As a cool accessory, the VS2 and VS3 make the perfect music gadget, what with its Stereo Music MP3 Capability that delivers crisp, clear and full-bodied sound. The models come with an accompanying stereo headphone to complete the technologically advanced listening pleasure.



THE VS3 RED

What's more, the Panasonic VS3 takes the style and pleasure on an even more sophisticated level with a patented X-Changeable Cover that's easy to remove and put on. Now, the trendy and cosmopolitan fashionista will have endless fun matching and mixing the VS3's color to his/her wardrobe or mood.

Those who treat their cell phones like a camera will find the perfect ally in the Panasonic SC3. This thin, cool handset packs a digital camera capable of varied shooting modes: Close Up, Twilight, Self-Portrait, and Image-aiding the camera buff and budding photo to create the perfect picture with just a click. And with pre-set fun frames, the pictures can be presented in endless fun ways.

THE SC3

The SC3 has a 128 x 128-pixel, 65-color TFT display that shows pictures in glorious colors. With 40 emoticons and a messaging illumination of 7-color LED, texting becomes even more inventive and expressive. The handset also comes with other fun contents such as Java games, ringbones and lots of wallpapers to choose from.

MDH OPENS NEW NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT

Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH), one of the country's premier heath institutions, recently opened its top-of-the-line nuclear medicine department, now equipped with the state-of-the-art Siemens E-cam Dual Head Gamma Camera System. The equipment enables more accurate scanning procedures wherein the smallest crack in the bones and the tiniest tumor may be seen and properly diagnosed. Because of these advancements in technology, the gamma camera is now widely utilized for cancer (oncology), wherein patients undergo whole body bone scans to detect early spread of cancer (metastases). It can locate tumors; making it easier to evaluate the extent of disease. Other areas benefiting from the system are heart-related diseases (cardiology), breast imaging or scintimammography, lung related (pulmonary) problems, kidney (nephrology) troubles and stomach and intestinal (gastrointestinal) diseases and brain (neurology) related diseases. Shown (from left) are Juan Miguel Tan, senior vice president, Siemens, Dr. Dante Morales, medical director, MDH, Dr. Benjamin Yamson, City Health Officer of Manila, Dr. Antonio Garcia, chair, nuclear medicine, MDH and Dr. Cynthia Cuayo Juico, chair, pediatrics, MDH.

AFP PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM IN TANAY

The Public Affairs Service of the AFP Reserve Command recently conducted a medical, dental, optical, deworming, milkfeeding and nutrition supplementation as well as minor surgical and toy gift-giving operation at the Carmelite Monastery in the remote mountains of Tanay, Rizal. This was done in cooperation with the 2nd Division PA through its Chief of Staff Col. Virgilio Espineli. Over 1,800 patients benefited from this activity. Shown is the medical team after the mission, led by commander Col. Jess Cabarrus.

Figaro brews up in more exciting locations

IF YOU'RE BOUND FOR TAGAYTAY FOR AN important business appointment or simply just to soak up the cool mountain breeze with your loved ones, then drop by the newly opened Figaro in town. Conveniently located on the ground floor of Magallanes Square along Aguinaldo Highway corner Magallanes Drive, get to enjoy your favorite coffee concoction while enjoying the scenic view. Open everyday, it also serves a delectable lineup of breakfast favorites.

Figaro also finds a new home at the country's fastest growing leisure sport. For the sports enthusiast with an active lifestyle, Figaro is just a ball throw away. At the heart of Libis, located at the ground floor of the Clubsixfifty Lifestyle Sports Center, Figaro is the place to relax and unwind with family and friends.

In the midst of fast-paced Eastwood, there's a place where one can feel free to sit back and savor a cup of Figaro's famous coffee concoctions. The new Figaro outlet on the ground floor of One Luna Lifestyle Center, Felina Park Place is conveniently located just across the IBM Plaza Building.

The ever progressing central business district welcomes another Figaro coffee shop. Right behind the Makati Medical Center, executives can now enjoy dining at Figaro located in the ground floor of the Zeta Building, Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village.

And finally, need to take a breather from a whirlwind shopping spree at Gateway? Settle down at ground floor of the Gourmet Tower and perk up with Figaro's famous specialty coffee at Araneta Center's newest commercial paradise Gateway Mall.

LEIZENZI MARKETING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Better Herbs Inc's Leizenzi, the award-winning herbal food supplement for sleep disorder, recently launched an intensified marketing campaign in tri-media for the premier brand. Leizenzi, formerly known as Better Sleep, promotes good sleep the natural way. It is available in Mercury Drug, Watsons, Emmaflor Drug and other leading drugstores nationwide. For more info, text 0918-9349347 or call 723-4376. Shown are Rommel Santos and Dr. Robert Lim of Better Herbs Inc answering queries from media men during a press briefing.

Bits Clips

CEU to launch book

CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY WILL LAUNCH a coffee table book, "100 Wild Plants" on Oct. 20, 5 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City. This 196-page research-based coffee table book produced by the university has been developed after years of research on the health and food potentials of the country's indigenous plants. The production of the book is one of the highlights of the pre-centennial activities of CEU in celebration of its 100th year in 2007. Spearheaded by CEU president Dr. Rosita L. Navarro, the production of the book was a collaborative research effort by the University's deans and department heads. Exquisitely photographed by Neil Lucente and Claudine Sia, the book is not only a collection of 100 plants with therapeutic value, but also a work of art with images of a variety of flowering fruit trees, weeds, vines, shrubs, and perennials arranged to play up a panorama of colors, structure and pattern. For inquiries, call 736-8857 or 735-6861 loc. 329.

Interactive bird show

THE NINOY AQUINO PARKS AND WILDLIFE will play host to the second season of the Malagos Garden's Interactive Bird Show beginning Oct. 20 to Jan. 29, 2006. The country's first and only full production bird show seeks to teach important lessons in environmental responsibility and help urban dwellers appreciate Filipino exotic birds. Civic values like sportsmanship, perseverance, punctuality, honesty, and proper waste disposal are also woven into the show. Roberto "Dr. Bo" Puentespina, wildlife veterinarian and conservationist, hosts the show. Dr. Bo is also president of the Malagos Wildlife Preservation Foundation which is spearheading the project in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Over 20 species and more than 200 birds are featured in the show. For group bookings, call Ticketworld at 819-9999 and look for Alma or Melvie. For inquiries, call 929-9310 or 426-5192, or log on to www.malagos.com.

'Cam to Disneyland'

PURCHASE A SONY CYBER-SHOT OR HANDYcam from now until Oct. 20 and get a chance to use your Cyber-shot or Handycam to capture your family's fun adventure to Hong Kong Disneyland. Despite their compact size, Sony Cyber-shot is packed with attractive features that truly inspire creativity. Meanwhile, Sony Handycam lets you shoot video, edit and share it to the world, all within a matter of minutes. Register first by texting SONY REG<name>/<address>/gender M or F>/<birthday MMDDYY> to 2982 for Sun Cellular, Globe, Touch Mobile and 283 for Smart and Talk N Text subscribers. You only have to register once. After confirmation of registration, you can now send in your invoice number, product model, and product serial of your Handycam or Cyber-shot. Text SONY JOIN <invoice#>/<product model>/product serial#> to 2982 for Sun Cellular, Globe, Touch Mobile subscribers and 283 for Smart and Talk N Text subscribers.

First Seafood Market Link

THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC REsources (BFAR) and aquaculture feed company Tateh will mount the First Seafood Market Link on Oct. 21 at Clark Dine, Clark Field, Pampanga. The event gathers the major players of the aquaculture industry in Central Luzon to make the region the biggest player in the market. Links between farmers and buyers will be forged to provide a system in the fishery industry in the region. Central Luzon is the country's biggest producer of tilapia, milkfish (bangus) and giant tiger shrimp (sugpo). All three are being highlighted in the Seafood Market Link. Some 300 to 400 people are expected to attend the event. There will be representatives from public and private markets, supermarkets, restaurants and food chains, processing and export companies, and employees associations. For inquiries, call Lilian Garcia at (045) 9635515 or (045) 9612784, or Stephen Arlo Lapid at 0917-5109369.

Rediscover love in your marriage

RETROUVAILLE, MEANING "REDISCOVERY" IN French, is a program to help hurting couples to heal and renew their marriage relationship. It offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for separation have successfully saved their marriages by joining the program. The program consists of a live-in weekend and post-weekend sessions for married couples where they are encouraged to put the past behind and start "rediscovering" one another again. The weekend is not a "miracle cure" so the post-weekend sessions have been designed to continue the marriage renewal. A Retrouvaille weekend will be held from Oct. 21 to 23 at the Saidi Formation House, Antipolo City. To register, call Fr. Soc Mesiona (0917-7055523), Merit and Bernie (0917-7950682) and Willie and Aleth at 800-5902. All names will be kept in strict confidence. Visit the Retrouvaille International website at www.retrouvaille.org.

First RP forum on IPR

THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTELlectual Property Rights (IPR) and public health. More specifically, the IPR system directly affects people's access to essential medicines because it has power over such issues as importation, licensing, pricing, and, therefore, availability of patented medicines. On Oct. 20 and 21, the first-ever Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health Forum will be convened at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati City. It will discuss IPR in the context of public health in the Philippines towards crafting a national IPR strategy for public health that will be submitted to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) will thresh out the roles and programs of the various trade agreements and how they impact on public health policies. For more information, call the IPO office at 351 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City at 752-5450 local 608.

Whirlpool advocates new business

WHIRLPOOL, THE WORLD'S BEST MANUFACturer of white line appliances, is holding a laundry seminar titled "Laundry Business Made Easy" on Oct. 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 22 D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City. This seminar is intended to assist budding entrepreneurs to start an efficient and profitable laundry business. Participants in this seminar will learn the important aspects on how to put up a laundry business and will be taught the rudiments of doing laundry. They will also be introduced to such details as what machines, detergents and other elements to use. Likewise, they will be told where to get laundry equipment, detergents and dry-cleaning solvents as well as the details of business financing. For the P950 seminar fee, participants will be eligible for the following benefits: free flat iron for participants who will purchase washers; free laundry basket for participants who will purchase dryers; free consultation and survey; and free signage support (subsidy support-subject for evaluation and approval).

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Eight-(8)Units of Skid-Mounted Remanufactured Engine Under FGO 50207
Approved budget: PHP 7,600,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Roderick R Cabanlog starting October 12, 2005, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on October 20 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the above address

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC EDC Procurement and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock time) on November 10, 2005. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission / execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI-Oct. 12 & 19, 2005)

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Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay 0% Int move-in 9126976

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PARANAQUE

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BULACAN

800m² Sn Jse Del Mnte TEL 8427892

LAGUNA

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MANDALUYONG

Paragon Plza FF 9125847

QUEZON CITY

3BR 2TB 1car grge XAVIER VILLE2 18k/mo 0917-5883463

FF Studio Garden Hts Condo E. Rodriguez Ave. Near St. Lukes T810-0786

NEW MLA 14TH ST. 3BD/TB MDS RM 23K 0917-83 09990

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AURORA ST. PASAY CITY 09189068891 / 4586901

QUEZON CITY

BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342604 / 0919-2876841

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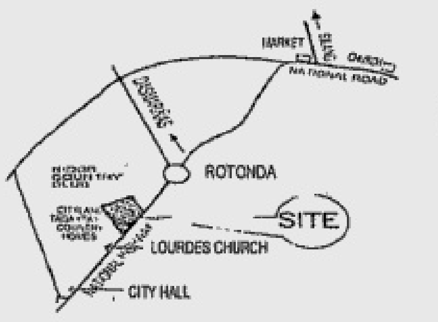

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CAR LOAN

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% ABC Car Line 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7980183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on October 27, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
AM-MC-134a	Bo. Tangos, San Roque, Navotas	436 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-202150)	P 436,000.00
AM-MC-134b	Bo. Tangos, San Roque, Navotas	242 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-202158) with bldg. & imp.	P 242,000.00
AM-MC-135	Back of Phil. Columbian Sports Complex, Estero de Concordia, Quirino Ave., Paco	853 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-193707)	P 698,250.00
AM-ML-136	Lot 10 Blk 8, No. 5140 San Gregorio St., Brgy. T. De Leon, Valenzuela City	180 m² residential lot (TCT No. V-77215) with bldg. & imp.	P 510,000.00
BACOLOD			
AM-CP-137	National Road, Brgy. Sum-Ag, Bacolod City	6,995 m², 2-adjoining comm'l/res'l lots (TCT Nos. T-182706 & T-182764) with bldg. & imp.	P 4,460,975.00
BAGUIO			
AM-ML-138	Bo. Lucban (Bo. Ambiong), Baguio City	18,517 m², 2-adjoining interior vacant agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-79824 & T-79823)	P 15,000,000.00
BATAAN			
AM-DE-139	Daan Bilolo, Orion	2,037 m², 2-residential lots (TCT Nos. 135112 and T-135464)	P 703,900.00
BATANGAS			
AM-ML-140	Fortune Village, Brgy. Poblacion, Taysan	517 m², 2-adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-118605 & T-118606) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,968,000.00
AM-JA-141	Along National Road (near Sta. Anastacia Elem. School) San Rafael, Sto. Tomas	1,185 m² res'l/comm'l. lot (TCT No. T-93491) with bldg. & freezing equipment	P 3,276,500.00
AM-MC-142a	Liza Compound, Poblacion IV, San Roque, Sto. Tomas	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-88530) with bldg. & imp.	P 690,000.00
AM-MC-142b	Bo. San Felix, Sto. Tomas	1,672 m², 3-adjacent untitled residential lots (TD Nos. 009-01676 R, 09-1678 R & 009-01679) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,729,900.00
CAVITE			
AM-MC-143	Lot 8 Blk 10, Philhomes Ville I, Toclong, Cavite	32 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-1101807) with bldg. & imp.	P 138,400.00
AM-DE-144	Greenbreeze Subd. I, Lancaan, Dasmariñas	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-979115)	P 218,000.00
LAGUNA			
AM-MR-145	Lot 32 Blk 4, St. Joseph 6, Phase I, Brgy. Butong, Cabuyao	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-518399) with bldg. & imp.	P 208,700.00
AM-ML-146	Along Bonifacio St., Brgy. Sto. Niño, Poblacion, Lumban	97 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,420,000.00
NUEVA ECIJA			
	Pabalan Subd., Abar 1st, San Jose	Residential lot	
AM-MC-147a	Lot - 118	283 m² TCT No. 12490	P 56,600.00
AM-MC-147b	Lot - 117	283 m² TCT No. 12491	P 56,600.00
AM-MC-147c	Lot - 98	198 m² TCT No. 12483	P 39,600.00
AM-MC-147d	Lot - 92	198 m² TCT No. 12485	P 39,600.00
ORMOC			
ORM-1a	Ablen Street, Ormoc City	426.44 m² comm'l-res'l/ind'l lot (TCT No. 45379) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,500,000.00
PAMPANGA			
AM-ML-148	Bo. San Juan, Macabebe	1,483 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 179970-R)	P 444,900.00
RIZAL			
AM-PI-149	Jasmin St. Nieves Hills Lakeview Subd., San Isidro, Angono	248 m², vacant residential lot (TCT No. 616234)	P 248,000.00
AM-ML-150	Jona St. Living Water Subd., Brgy. Quisao, Pililla	36 m² residential lot (TCT No. M-120489) with bldg. & imp.	P 211,800.00
TARLAC			
AM-MC-151	McArthur Highway, Bo. Estrada, Capas	25,156 m², 2-adjoining industrial lots (TCT Nos. 361740 & 361741) with bldg. & imp.	P 12,840,000.00
CHATTELS			
ORM-1b	Ablen Street, Ormoc City	5-units various printing machine and equipment	P 200,000.00
AM-ED-152	Brgy. Alangilan, Batangas City	Various marble processing machinery and equipment	P 8,000,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours, and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.
For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 892-1500/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM and (053) 255-4485 for ORM.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - Oct. 19 & 20, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Ruben Coroza Jordan has been settled by their heirs with an extrajudicial settlement with quitclaims as per Doc. 37, Page 8, Book II, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Lino N. Agpoon of Quezon City (PDI-Oct. 19, 26, Nov 2, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Metropolitan Club Inc. Stock Certificate No. B-1498 Member- ship No. R-0663 in the name of Chang Jin Chong. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. (PDI-Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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ORIGINAL TKR MOTORCYCLE WHEEL CHAIN

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to our attention of **EASTON ENTERPRISES CO., INCORPORATION** that certain unauthorized persons/establishment are selling, distributing and/or offering for sale counterfeit TKR-BRANDED Motorcycle Chain and other related products.

Notice is hereby given to the concerned parties and to the public that Genuine TKR Motorcycle Roller Chain products are distributed only by EASTON ENTERPRISES CO., INC. authorized dealer/distributors in the following areas:

LUZON

NEW STAR COMMERCIAL
92 AB Fernandez Avenue Dagupan City
Tel: 075-522-2431 • Fax 075-522-0030

VISAYAS / MINDANAO

D' LUCKY MOTOR PARTS
Manalili St., Cebu City
Tel: 032-2539457 • Fax: 032-2530390

EASTON ENTERPRISES COMPANY INC., is the authorized licensee of the duly registered trademark **"TKR"** Under **R.A. No. 8293**, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code, anyone found to have used said mark in commerce, without permission of its owner, is guilty of infringement. Under the same law, anyone who shall employ deception by which he shall pass off the goods he deals with for those of the one having established goodwill thereon, shall also be guilty of unfair competition.

Any importer, retailer, or dealer found to be selling, distributing, and/or offering for sale counterfeit "TKR" Motorcycle Roller Chain products shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Kindly report such illegal and unauthorized activities to the latter undersigned law firm.

Rewards will be given to the informers.

LOZADA TIBLANI SOLIMAN & BANTOG LAW OFFICES
Mezzanine A. LPL Center, Leviste Street,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel: 892-88-49

(PDI--Oct. 19, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following series of invoices of Automatic Appliances, Inc. (Automatic Centre - Greenhills Branch) were missing since October 13, 2005:

Retail Cash Invoice Ten (10) Booklets #77001 - 77500
Retail Charge Invoice Five (5) Booklets #62251 - 62500

This is to warn the public in general that usage, acceptance and application thereof for any sales transaction, delivery, pick-up and similar undertakings will not be honored by Automatic Appliances, Inc. Anybody who will be found using the abovementioned missing invoices directly or indirectly in any transaction mentioned hereon shall be deemed unauthorized/illegal and subject the same to applicable laws.

WHEREAS, the company is willing to give monetary reward to anybody who will return the series of these missing invoices to the Audit & System Group (ASG) Department of Automatic Appliances, Inc. located at number 167 Edsa Mandaluyong City (beside Victor Potenciano Medical Center formerly Polymedic Hospital) or you may contact 533-53-86 and look for MS. NELLY CADA, ASG Manager.

The Management
Automatic Appliances, Inc.
(Automatic Centre)

(PDI - Oct 19, 2005)

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
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Our Dearly
Beloved Nanay

LUTGARDA E. CALIWARA

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 17, 2005 at the age of 86.

Her husband *former* Quezon Governor **Eladio Almirez Caliwara** and her children **Dr. Carmencita** and **Dr. Armando B. Damian, Jr., Climaco** & **Bernadette Concepcion-Caliwara, Atty. Carlos Mayorico E. Caliwara** & **Evangeline Baltazar-Caliwara**; grandchildren **Cheryl, Michelle** & **Michael Campbell, Rachel** & **Andrew Burrows, Maitet** & **Neil Cipriano, Maiyee, Maico, Maickey, Christel, Chjoseph, Chjohnne, Cherese**; and great grandchildren **Damian, Nina, Parker** and **Nathan**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, October 21, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Chapel 2-B of Nacional Memorial Homes.

Memories Expo: An Expo for the Death Care Industry

AS ALL SOULS DAY nearly approaches, the Philippine Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila presents the "Memories Expo," an exhibit specially organized to bring together different products and services related to the death care industry. The event is organized to coincide with the publication of Memories 2. The expo will feature different companies and showcase their services to the public from funeral parlors, pre-need plans, florists, grief counseling, columbarium, memorial parks, catering, NGOs and suppliers from candles, coffins, tombstones, urns, etc. We invite everyone to visit the exhibitor's booths and get to know the latest trends and information. This two day event shall be held on October 25 and 26 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside Manila City Hall).

IN LOVING MEMORY

on the 12th Death Anniversary of

REMIGIO M. LILLES

Masses will be offered at the following churches
on Thursday, October 20, 2005

Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes – 6:15 AM – 7:30 AM
– 12:15 NN – 6:00 PM
Colegio de San Agustin D.V. – 6:45 AM
St. James, Ayala Alabang – 6:20 AM & 6:30 PM
Christ the King, Green Meadows – 6:00 AM & 7:00 PM
St. Paul Apostle, Quezon City – 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

His family **Lita Dizon Lilles, Cindy & Jim Maceda, Robert & Cecile, Isabel, Ayrton, Sophia & Amaya, Tony & Marlyn, Maia & Miela Lilles**, and **Patricia & Tomo Akiyama**, request relatives and friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Jose "Pito" S. Navera

of Camalig & Daraga, Albay

peacefully joined his Creator on October 16, 2005 at the age of 72.

His loving wife: Naty, children: Alma & Bobby, Marid & Gebby, Jojo & Meann, grandchildren: Tintin, Pankl, Yap-yap, Chico & Gelo request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state
at Oro Memorial Homes, Legaspi City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at The Pristine Memorial Park, Legaspi City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Jude Thaddeus Parish.

> I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
> *John 14:6*

So Lovingly Remembered
by his family
on his 10th Death Anniversary

RAMON R. ANGELES, MD

Died October 19, 1995

We faithfully keep him in our memory and prayers.

Mass will be said for the eternal repose of his soul at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., Q.C. on October 19 at 7PM.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy"
– Matthew 5:7

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban
mourns the death of

FR. JAMES McCARTHY

who died in the Blanchardstown Hospital in Dublin, Ireland on 16th October 2005 at the age of 78.

Fr. James McCarthy served in the Philippines since 1952 in the Parishes of Tanay, Binangonan, Morong, Cardona, Jalajala and Malate and also in Student Catholic Action.

A Memorial Mass for Fr. James McCarthy will be held in Malate Catholic Church today, Wednesday, 19th October at 6:00 p.m.

May he rest in peace

WE DESIGN OBITUARY
FOR FREE.

DENNIS SANTOS ROLDAN

(21 April 1948 - 13 September 2005)
of Navotas, MM and Orlando, Florida

*Went to join our **Papa, NANING,** and **Mama, CELY** in the House of the Lord last 13 September 2005.*

His cremated remains will be at the White Plains Chapel, Nathan Road, White Plains, Q. C., on 19 October, from 9:00 am up to 20 October 2005 and will be transferred to Bocaue, Bulacan on 21 October 2005.

Please join his loved ones in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104 Direct Line: 840-2024/ Fax No.: (632) 840-1459
PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its 2005 Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Six Million Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Seven and 36/100 Pesos (Php6,017,997.36) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **JANITORIAL AND GENERAL MANPOWER SERVICES FOR PNOC EC'S ENERGY SUPPLY BASE** (the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **JANITORIAL AND GENERAL MANPOWER SERVICES FOR PNOC EC'S ENERGY SUPPLY BASE** in Mabini, Batangas. The contract duration for the Project is two (2) years.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Ms. Janis C. Fabian) starting October 12, 2005 at PNOC EC Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00).

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 11, 2005, 1:30 P.M. at PNOC EC's Energy Supply Base in Mabini, Batangas.

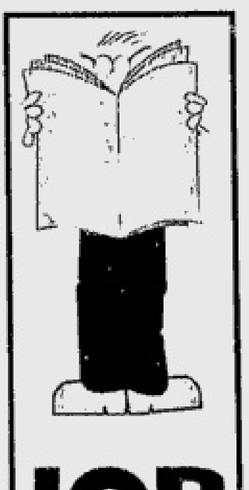
Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than 3:00 P.M. on November 23, 2005 at PNOC EC Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The bids, including the eligibility requirements, shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net

(Sgd.) Jose M. Eljansantos
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI October 12 & 19, 2005)



JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 897-66-82 / 890-13-32 ; Fax No. 895-83-22

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **Amley Food Corporation** with office address at Phividec Industrial Estate, Sta. Ana, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended, as **New Export Producer of Dried Tropical Fruits** at a capacity of **336,960kilos/1,684,800 packs (@200gper pack)** and with base of operations at Sta. Ana, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental has been officially accepted on Oct. 10, 2005, and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the Board of Investments within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation & Registration Department

(PDI – October 19, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Social Security System

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

JANITORIAL SERVICES

Two-year Janitorial Services for SSS Western Visayas Cluster

1. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WESTERN VISAYAS CLUSTER*, through its 2005-2007 Building Maintenance/Repair – Janitorial Services, intends to apply the sum of Php 4,308,435.79 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Two-year Janitorial Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Janitorial Services – *[Twenty Three (23) Janitorial service personnel for distribution to SSS Western Visayas Branches, as follows: Bacolod(10), Bago(1), Sagay(1), Kabankalan(1), Victorias(1), San Carlos(1), Iloilo(3), Antique(1), Aklan(1), Roxas(1), Bais(1), Dumaguete(1)]* required within a two-year period after contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 1 of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, Western Visayas Cluster, Bacolod City*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8 AM TO 5 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00* The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Section, Ground Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 10, 2005, 2:00 PM, at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., Lacson Street, Bacolod City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *8:30 A.M., of November 23, 2005*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in Cash or Manager's / Cashier's check payable to the Social Security System amounting to Php 43,084.35 (1% of ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *November 23, 2005, 9:30 A.M.* at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., Lacson Street, Bacolod City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The Secretariat
Bid and Awards Committee-WV Cluster
Administrative Section,
2nd Floor, SSS Building,
Lacson Street, Bacolod City
Tel # (034) 709-0880; (034) 435-0161
Facsimile number – (034) 434-5130

(Sgd.) ATTY. MA. ELENA M. LOCSIN
BAC-WV Chairperson

(PDI – October 19, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Jaro, Iloilo City

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05
Revised on: July 29, 2004

RO6-2005-004
Installation of Continuous Ridge Vent. of Whse. B
Banga, Aklan

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Region 6 through its Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Installation of Continuous Ridge Ventilator of Warehouse B
Location	Banga, Aklan
Brief Description	Fabrication and Installation of Ridge Air Ventilator of Warehouse B
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Three Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Pesos & 71/100 (P327,300.71)
Contract Duration	30 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Oct. 19-31, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Nov. 2-9, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 2-9, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Nov. 11, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 11-18, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 9, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Dec. 21, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at National Food Authority, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the NFA, Region 6 Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) to the NFA, Region 6 Cashier.

The NFA, Region 6, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The *National Food Authority, Region 6* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
ARD/Chairperson

(PDI-Oct. 19 & 20, 2005)

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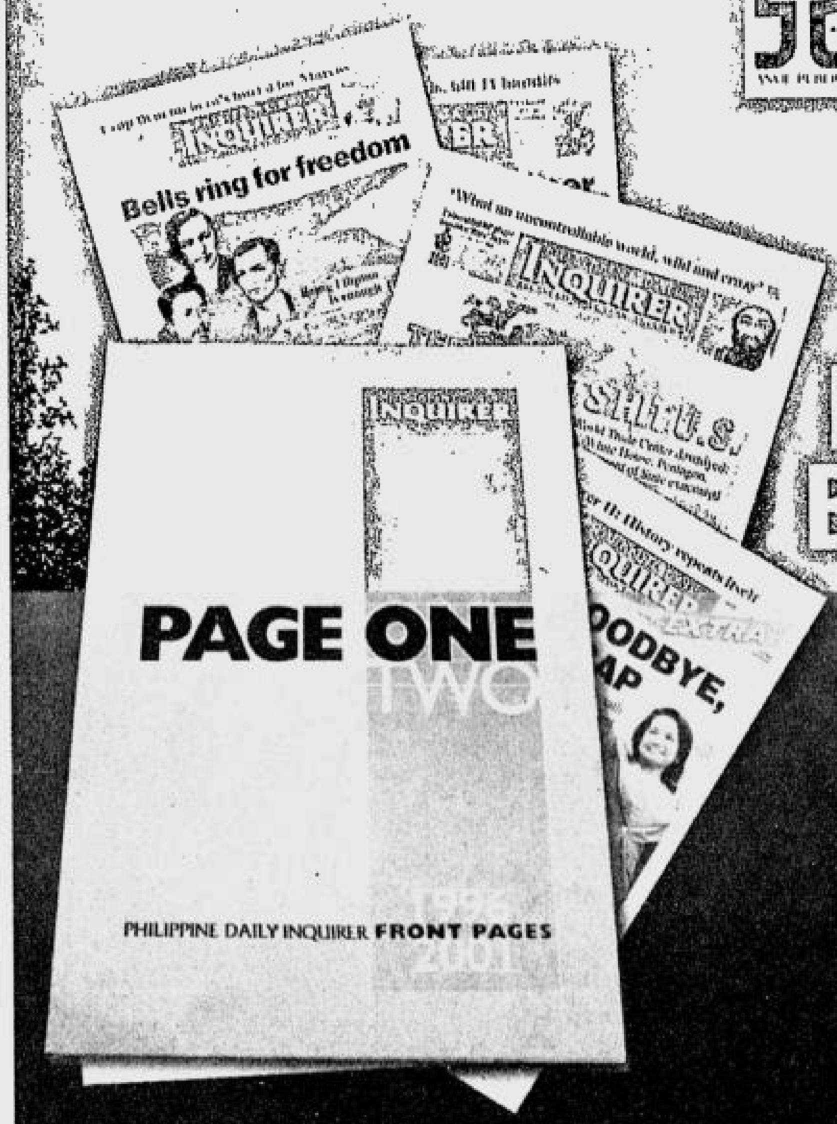

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BUSINESS

SEC questions CAP rehabilitation plan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) and a group of 22 plan holders continued to oppose the rehabilitation plan of embattled pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP), saying it was unfit to be rehabilitated.

"All told, CAP is insolvent and its insolvency is beyond recovery. CAP's financial collapse is inevitable," the SEC said in a comment filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court, "The SEC is opposing this petition so that CAP's plan holders will have a chance to be paid while CAP still has remaining assets."

CAP said it had yet to get a copy of the comment sent last Monday to the RTC by the SEC.

The SEC said in its comment that CAP itself admitted that it was insolvent, or unable to meet its obligations given its current assets.

In its financial statement as of June 30, CAP had a capital deficiency of P12.8 billion.

As of August, CAP's trust fund deposits were deficient by P194.4 million, in violation of new pre-need rules.

Based on the company's unaudited financial report as of July 31, its total assets at P14.7 billion were much lower than liabilities worth P27.4 billion.

CAP also failed to add some P10.3 billion to its trust fund from 2003 to 2005, the SEC said.

The SEC said CAP's deficit makes it "impossible" for the company to pay its obligations to plan holders.

As of June 30, CAP's trust fund assets were P6.8 billion against reserve liabilities of P22.7 billion.

According to the SEC, CAP's trust fund has been "wantonly depleted."

SEC claimed that the bulk of CAP's trust fund investments as of July 30 consisted of real estate, equivalent to 71.6 percent of the trust fund, in violation of pre-need rules that limit the fund's real estate exposure to 25 percent.

The SEC also said that CAP's MRT bonds—its prized assets in the trust fund—were now worth just P456 million.

It earlier sold MRT bonds at a loss to meet immediate obligations and pay off loans to Bank of Commerce.

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3 months	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%
6 months	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%
12 months	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%	3.7500%

*Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice
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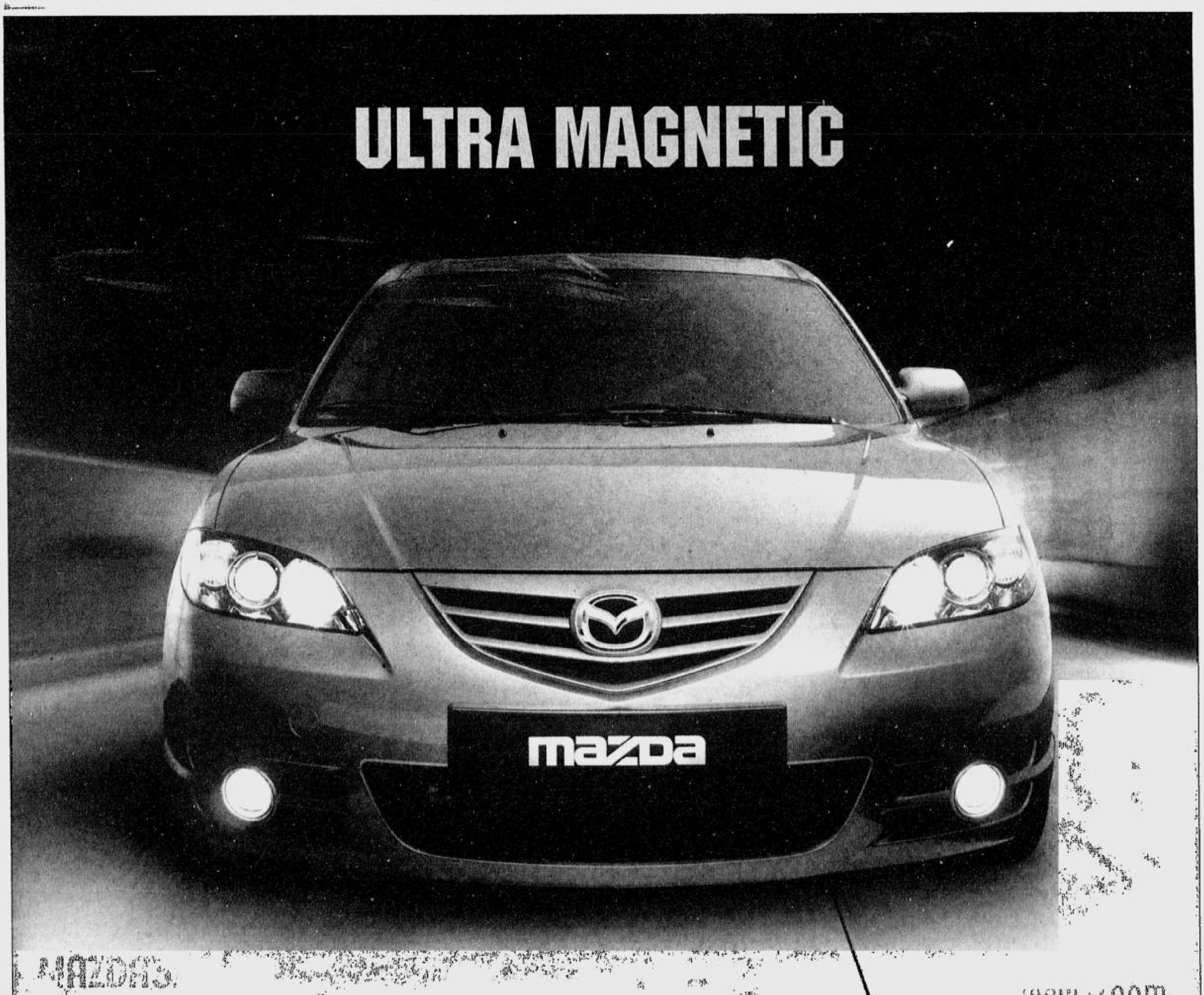

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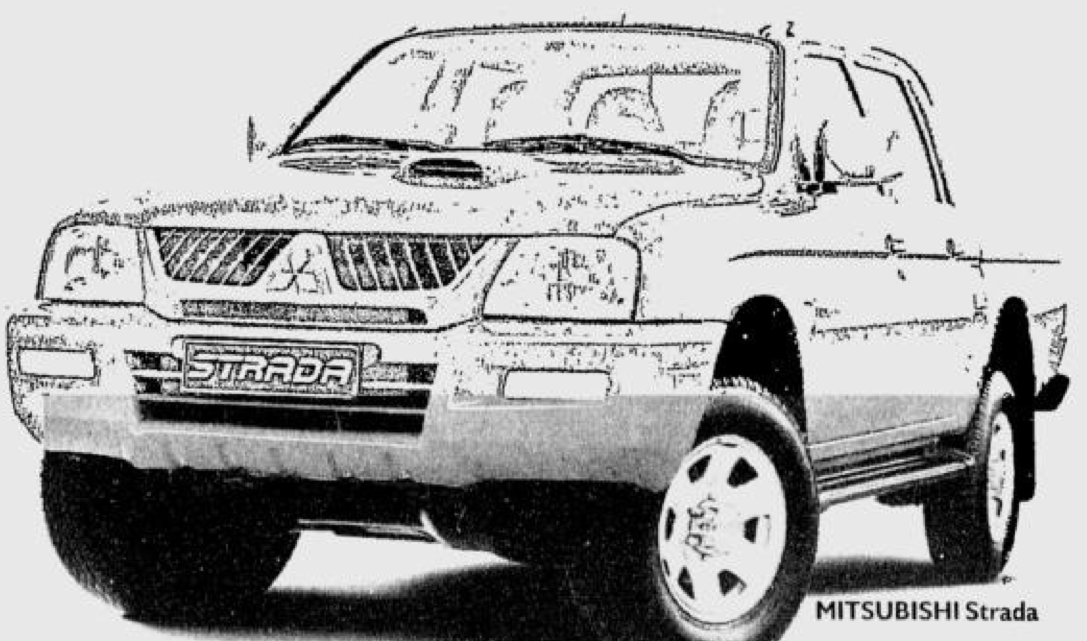
MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

ck: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FORD Focus


MITSUBISHI Strada

Carmakers keep the noise up during lean months

by Tessa R. Salazar

WITH LOOMIMG FUEL price increases and the secondhand import alternatives ever-threatening to eat a sizeable chunk off their markets, carmakers aren't taking the latest sales figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Inc. (Campi) and Truck Manufacturers Association lightly.

September sales figures from Campi and the TMA show just a 0.1 percent drop in September sales compared to August.

However, this slight drop in sales occurred even as carmakers went full blast with their promotions and marketing campaigns, according to Campi president Beth Lee.

Lee added, however, that overall sales are expected to increase in the coming months as the full month sales of new models and fleet account deliveries come in. The industry, she said, hopes to reach its target by year end, which would show an 8 percent increase over the 88,000 units sold last year.

Lee added that her group has no choice but to nurture the P68 billion invested in the industry in addition to the current 75,000 quality jobs supported by the domestic auto industry.

Biggest obstacle

The biggest obstacle so far, as far as car manufacturers are concerned, hasn't been the market fear of rising fuel costs. It's the secondhand imports that flaunt considerably cheaper price tags as its main come-on to the local market.

Of the 256,855 new vehicles registered last year (excluding trailers and motorcycles), industry sales accounted for only 88,077 or 38.8 percent of the total, while the rest, 168,778 or 61.2 percent of the number, is classified as the "gray market" comprised of CKD and CBU secondhand imports entering the country's various ports.

STRADA'S interior

New models

Despite all of these, new models from carmakers keep marching in. Last week, a new variant of the Mitsubishi Strada, the GLX 4x4 pickup going for P900,000—was launched. A double-cab M/T priced in the same range as high-end 4x2 pickups in the market, the GLX 4x4 features multireflector headlamps, a hood scoop for the intercooler engine, a fin-type grille design, a front-impact absorbing polypropylene bumper, chrome side-view mirrors, white fender markers and black side-step boards. Its 15-inch styled steel wheels in 205/80R16 tires complement the rugged look.

Then there's the much-awaited five-door Ford Focus 2.0L Sport, launched last week, as well. At P988,000, owners get to enjoy the 2-liter, 16-valve Duratec gasoline engine with 145 ps at 6,000 rpm and a peak torque of 185Nm at 4,500 rpm all contained in a 4-speed A/T.

Luie Dy Buncio, Ford Group Philippines VP for sales, said the new generation Focus continues a heritage of being the backbone of Ford's motor sports activities since 1999. He revealed that Focus' participation in the World Rally Championship from 2005 onward would be the perfect showcase for its dynamic attributes.

And from the diesel experts, Isuzu's promo offers financing schemes that feature low down payments, low monthly amortization or zero-interest and special cash deals until Oct. 31. Isuzu offers a 15 percent down-payment deal on the Crosswind XT and the D-Max LS 4x2 A/T. And at a 50-percent down payment, buyers can drive home the Crosswind XT, the D-Max LS 4x2 M/T and the D-Max LS A/T at low monthly installment rates and zero-percent interest.

ISUZU D-Max

The Crosswind sells for P1.085 million for the Sportivo A/T; P1.020 million for the Sportivo M/T; P1.060 million for the XUVi A/T; P995,000 for the XUVi M/T; P995,000 for the XUV A/T; P940,000 for the XUV M/T; and P790,000 for the XT. The D-Max, meanwhile, is priced at P1.360 million for the 4x4 LS A/T; P1.305 million for the 4x4 LS M/T; P1.015 million for the 4x2 LS A/T; and P960,000 for the 4x2 LS M/T.

New showroom

Aside from the Certified Pre-Owned Program (BMW Premium Selection) with comprehensive 100-point technical check and a 12-month or 20,000-km warranty in all of its authorized dealers, BMW Philippines has just launched its new showroom—one that is practically accessible 24/7. It's the new BMW Premium Selection Virtual Showroom.

It features an Online Car Finder, interior and exterior photos of vehicles and information such as mileage, unit colors and prices. BMW enthusiasts can log on to www.bmw.com.ph.

A purchase of any of the two variants of the Ford Escape (3.0L 4X4 XLT or 2.3L 4X2 XLS) up to Oct. 31 automatically qualifies the customer for raffle tickets. A buyer can also refer another buyer and every successful transaction entitles the referrer additional raffle tickets to increase his or her chances of winning. All prizes are convertible to cash.

Beyond making clean cars

HONDA CARS ARE known to give you more value for your money because of its fuel efficiency translating to cleaner and lesser toxic emissions. Now, Honda has taken its social responsibility a step higher with its Adopt-a-Tree project in support of ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan.

Honda adopted a total of 7 hectares of land at the La Mesa Watershed, planting close to 600 seedlings of Philippine hard wood trees. It has been reforesting the watershed since 2002.

A joint project of Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI), Honda Philippines Inc. (HPI) and Honda Parts Manufacturing Corp. (HPMC), this is in line with Honda's global campaign for environmental protection and preservation.

"We should not stop caring for the environment because we know that we cannot survive without nature. But nature can survive without us," HCPI president Takashi Sekiguchi said.

BEYOND/ B2-2

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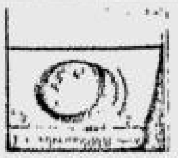

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The habit of winning

THE PRESTIGIOUS J.D. POWER ASIA Pacific has reported another bit of happy news for Toyota Motor Philippines, already the market leader for years in the local automotive industry.

J.D. Power found Toyota No. 1 in customer satisfaction with authorized dealer after-sales service in the Philippines for the second consecutive year through its Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) study.

Now on its fifth year, the CSI study is independently conducted by J.D. Power to measure customer satisfaction with the after-sales service process. Overall customer satisfaction is measured in seven areas, namely: (1) problems experienced, (2) service quality, (3) user-friendly service, (4) service delivery, (5) service advisor, (6) service initiation and, (7) in-service experience.

Toyota has recorded the greatest improvement in overall satisfaction for 2005, improving 13 points to score 841 index points (on a 1,000-point scale). Toyota has also led the industry across all seven CSI factors and has registered the largest improvement in the study in the service delivery factor.

"Toyota has scored the highest on all factors comprising the CSI index and has recorded the highest number of respondents, saying they are 'pleased' or 'delighted' on 30 of 35 attributes evaluated," said Gerrit Kuyntjes, general manager, J.D. Power Asia Pacific.

Toyota has consistently pocketed the Triple Crown victories in vehicle sales en route to that glittering Grand Slam feat this year. And now this prestigious accolade from no less than the J.D. Power Asia Pacific.

Here's a glass to the wondrous team of Alfred Ty, Apen Pantaleon, Jing Atienza,

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

Raymond Rodriguez, Ariel de Jesus, Elijah Sue Marcial and Danny Isla, among others, for always wracking their brains up in ensuring that Toyota is consistently No. 1 in the automotive industry. I'm sure that from Singapore where Vince Socco has been based for quite a while now, this TMP triggerman for years is celebrating in his own quiet (or is it rambunctious?) way.

Cheers, partner!

* * *

NEW INVENTION. **According to a friend of mine, the HydroOctane Booster (HOB) can reduce your fuel expenses. Both adapted to gas and diesel engines, the HOB, according to inventor Glenn Castillo, can "give you 25-35 percent fuel savings in city driving and up to 70 percent in highway driving." Castillo is the youngest member of the Philippine Inventors Society. He said his invention is now being exported to the United States, Canada and the Middle East. You can call (632) 932 7313 or (632) 455 1555 for more details.**

* * *

LEXUS IN TOKYO. Lexus, the world-renowned Toyota blockbuster sold only in the United States, will display its "Flagship Sedan Concept Car" and two other new concept vehicles—the GS450h and the LF-A—in the 39th Tokyo Motor Show from Oct. 22 to Nov. 6 this year.

With its "pursuit of perfection" philosophy, Lexus is now being bruited about as the new global premium brand for the 21st century.

The GS450h is a premium sedan with a new hybrid system. It is powered by a 3.5-liter, V6 gasoline engine fitted with the new D-4S fuel injection system coupled with a high-output electric motor in pursuit of providing 2.0-liter class fuel economy and the output of a 4.5-liter engine.

The LF-A is a two-seater sports car equipped with a V10 engine. Its overall dimensions are 4,400mm (length) by 1,860mm (width) by 1,220mm (height) and can accommodate two adults.

I won't be surprised if actor/comedian Vic Sotto, the famed car-lover, will soon own one of those.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **To drive safely is to drive leisurely.**

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CONSUMERS DESERVE OPTIMUM performance, the best value for money and functionality for a smoother and safer ride. Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari) gives them just that with the new Starex GRX CRDi.

In 2004, Starex GRX became the "top of mind" people mover in the country's van market, enabling Hyundai to register a record-breaking sale of 1,386 units in nine months. This sleek and aerodynamic van, which has earned the moniker "King of the Road," is powered by a 2.5-liter turbo-charged intercooler diesel engine that produces a maximum horsepower of 145 ps at 3,800 rpm and maximum torque of 36 kgm at 2,000 rpm. It has a dual-diagonal split circuit power-assisted braking system with pressure proportioning valve to enhance passenger safety and power steering wheels for easy handling.

Amazing power

And as a manifestation of its continuing program and commitment in providing utmost customer satisfaction and top-notch quality vehicles, Hari is now introducing the better than ever Starex GRX with Common Rail Direct Injection (CRDi) Diesel Engineuity which boasts of amazing power, enhanced safety feature and a bolder look.

Using a system made by a European carmaker in 1997, Hyundai developed CRDi engine technology together with US-based Detroit Diesel. CRDi "redefines" diesel technology by making the engine run like a gasoline-powered one.

Although common rail diesels are used in some luxury cars, Hyundai is the first carmaker to offer it in the country at Starex's price range and vehicle category.

Starex's new CRDi engine produces a maximum diesel torque power of 145ps. Even with a high torque at low rpm, fast acceleration is possible reaching up to 180 kph. "It is fast, quiet and economical, while maintaining the diesel engine characteristics of higher pulling power," said Fe Agudo, managing director of Hari.

Fuel efficiency, safety

Its fuel efficiency is 15 percent better than other turbo intercooler diesel engines, ensuring significant savings on fuel consumption. With the rising fuel prices, a vehicle that can combine comfort, safety and fuel efficiency is definitely a welcome addition.

The new Starex has added safety features like the 4-disc antilock braking system (ABS) for ample stopping power even on slippery roads.

The driver's side airbag is also deployed rapidly to provide protection during an impact or crash. An immobilizer system was also installed as an anti-theft device. Starex GRX CRDi is backed by a three-year, 100,000-km factory warranty.

Exclusive distributor

Hari is the exclusive distributor of Hyundai automotive products in the country. It received the Outstanding Performance and Contribution in Customer Satisfaction award from Hyundai Motor Co. (HMC) in 2004 for its remarkable achievements in sales and after-sales service.

Hari now has 18 authorized dealers nationwide: Hyundai Alabang, Hyundai Balintawak, Hyundai Commonwealth, Hyundai E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Hyundai Edsa, Hyundai Makati, Hyundai Ortigas, Hyundai Quezon Avenue, Hyundai Bacolod, Hyundai Cabanatuan, Hyundai Cagayan De Oro, Hyundai Cebu, Hyundai Dagupan, Hyundai Iloilo, Hyundai La Union, Hyundai Laguna, Hyundai Pampanga and Hyundai Southern Mindanao.

STAREX

VOLVO in BPI Automadness '05: Volvo Cebu Customer Service Officers Larry Reyes and Cherry Ceniza with Volvo Cebu Sales Manager Katch Cachin and Viking Cars Inc. (Volvo Manila) AVP for Corporate Services Division, Engr. Bing Soria.

Volvo takes Cebu in style

VOLVO RECENTLY TOOK CEBU BY STORM with its participation in the city's most recent exciting events. With the full support of its Cebu independent dealer Pasajero Motors Corp., it took part in BPI's Automadness from Oct. 6 to 9. The Swedish car manufacturer also asserted its stylish qualities through its participation in Cebu's latest fashion event, the Cebu Fashion Fete 2005 held Oct. 7.

Volvo brought in its winning display area and added more flair to BPI's Automadness event. The commanding XC90 with its vibrant Cebu decals and the stunning V50 Sportswagon graced the automotive floor. The Scandinavian-inspired theme drew the crowd to touch and feel the Volvos on display. With the dynamic new team of Volvo Cebu and the presence of the Volvo Manila dealer representatives, the Volvo booth was ready to assist the Cebuanos who visited the area.

Apart from giving the Cebu motoring market a taste of the Volvo experience, Volvo also partnered with Cebu's premier fashion and lifestyle show on TV, "Stylefile." Possessing the masterful qualities of design and innovation, Volvo fit right in with the sleek models as they did the catwalk on at the Cebu Trade Hall of SM City Cebu.

Well attended

The Fashion Fete 2005 was well-attended by Cebu's most stylish and fashionable crowd. Again, the curvaceous XC90 with its festive Cebu designs was seen as crowds of fabulous fashionistas milled around at Formo for the after-party celebrations.

Volvo strengthens its presence in this Visayan city as it gears toward providing the market with cars that possess premium quality, exhilarating performance and ergonomic design. Of course, its continued dedication to caring for the environment and the people in it also makes the ride even more enjoyable.

Official distributor

In Manila, Viking Cars Inc. is the official distributor of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and Aftersales Center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City while Volvo Ortigas Center and Aftersales Center is located on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The Volvo Cebu showroom is located on M.L. Quezon Avenue, Casuntingan, Mandaue City with contact numbers (032) 345-0188 or 0916-6873657. The 2005 Volvo automobile line includes the compact all-new S40 and V50 sportswagon, sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the rugged Cross Country and the award-winning XC90 AWD. For details and inquiries, please call 893-6621 to 22 (Makati showroom) or 637-0414 to 17 (Ortigas showroom).

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Honda Associates support Save the La Mesa Water Shed Project
Adopt-a-Tree
Adopt-a-Hectare

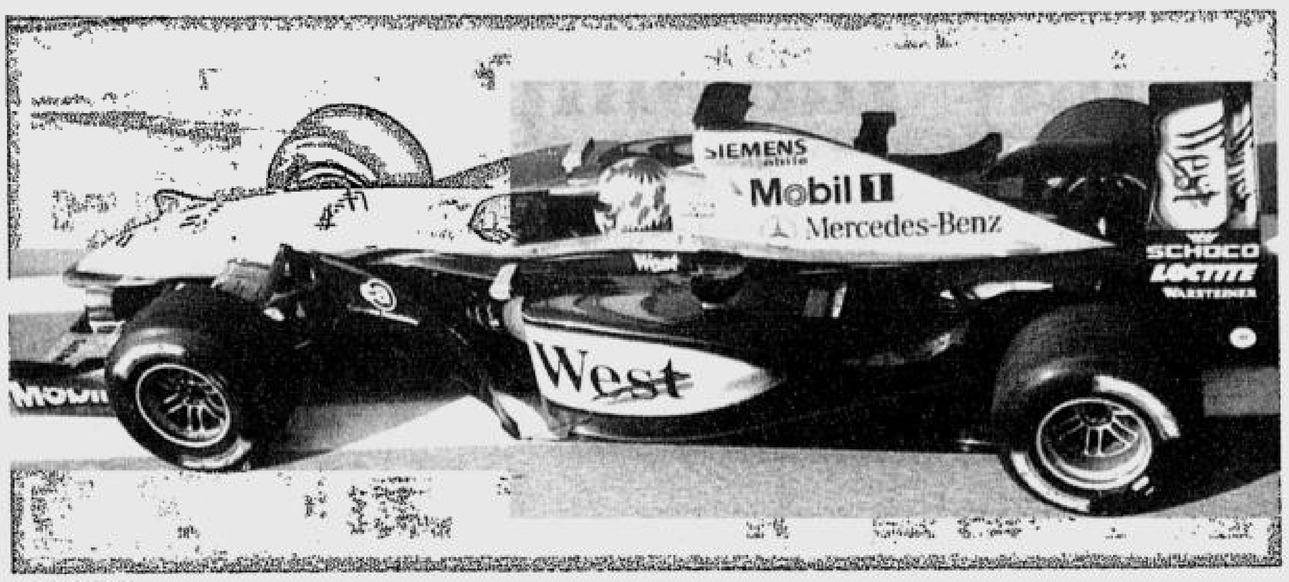
HCPI president Takashi Sekiguchi leads tree planting rites.

Beyond making clean cars

From page B2-1

In line with its fuel conservation and environmental preservation campaign, Honda pledged to conduct tree-planting sessions annually to help complete the reforesting of the remaining 300 hectares of the La Mesa Watershed.

The La Mesa Watershed is a protected rainforest at the heart of Metro Manila, supplying 6 percent of the city's total clean water requirement. Its total land area is 1,521 hectares, 1,221 of which have already been adopted by various companies and organizations.



MCLAREN

McLaren edges Renault with two more wins

SHANGHAI—MCLAREN CAN WALK away from the Formula One season with their heads held high despite losing out in both championship battles, says team boss Ron Dennis.

"We're not going to go out of this paddock...with our chins on our feet," he told reporters at a Chinese Grand Prix that handed rivals Renault their first constructors' championship on Sunday.

"We've done a pretty good job, we deserve the criticism that we level at ourselves, but we are hardly dismal failures." McLaren ended the season with 10 wins, two more than Renault, but otherwise empty handed after Renault's 24-year-old Spaniard Fernando Alonso beat Kimi Raikkonen to the drivers' crown in Brazil last month.

"We can't go away feeling that we've massively failed because if you come to McLaren and you see our corporate overview, the vision statement for McLaren Racing is to compete in and win every grand prix," Dennis added.

"It doesn't say win world championships. It says enter every world championship race and win it.

"We recognize the importance of world championships and constructors' titles but we can hardly go away from here saying that we've failed miserably," he added.

Faster car

McLaren and Renault were in a class of their own all year, winning every race between them with the exception of the six-car US Grand Prix won by Ferrari after the Michelin-equipped teams withdrew due to tire safety concerns.

There was no doubt that McLaren had the faster car for much of the championship, but they paid the price for a lack of reliability and the other teams' inability to take points away from Renault.

Dennis said his team should also have been more aggressive with their new car early in the season, when Alonso built up his comfortable points cushion.

"We were too cautious in the first four grands prix," he said.

"With the benefit of hindsight, we could have been more aggressive in the introduction of developments both on the car and engine that came in Spain.

"A lot is said about reliability, but the mathematics don't really stack up," he added.

Reliability problems

Dennis pointed out that Renault had also suffered reliability problems but the telling difference was that McLaren's were mostly with Raikkonen's car while Renault's were all with Italian Giancarlo Fisichella.

Raikkonen would probably have won in San Marino, leading from pole position until he suffered a driveshaft failure, and was also sidelined at Hockenheim with a hydraulics problem after also starting from pole.

At the Nuerburgring in May he crashed out on the last lap while leading after flat-spotting a tire, with the vibrations leading to suspension failure.

The Finn won seven races but also had repeated engine failures in practice, costing him 10 places on the starting grid.

"Overall the performance of our cars has been good," Dennis added.

"It's sort of difficult to get your mind around the fact that under normal circumstances you look at world championships that have been won with the driver winning one race... it's just a slightly perverse situation."

Reuters

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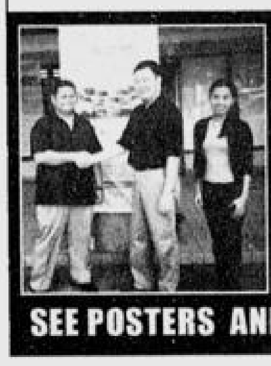

Congratulations to the following 1st Draw Winners:

KIA PICANTO	Glenn B. Chua (Lahug, Cebu)
NOKIA 2650	Ferdinand Romero (Manila), Michael Palomares (Manila), Priscila Arias (Manila), John Lesaca (Quezon City), Rosalito Ladao (Parañaque), Elizabeth Carandang (San Juan), Guendolyn Mah (Cebu City), Fernando Camaclang (Cavite), Gilbert Tan (San Juan), Carlito Dionela (Manila)
TCL TV	Noel Noble (Cainta, Rizal), Catin Yu (Quezon City), Felicidad Alonso (Quezon City), Vergel Villegas (Pateros), Marissa Magat (Valenzuela), Erlinda Alberto (Quezon City)
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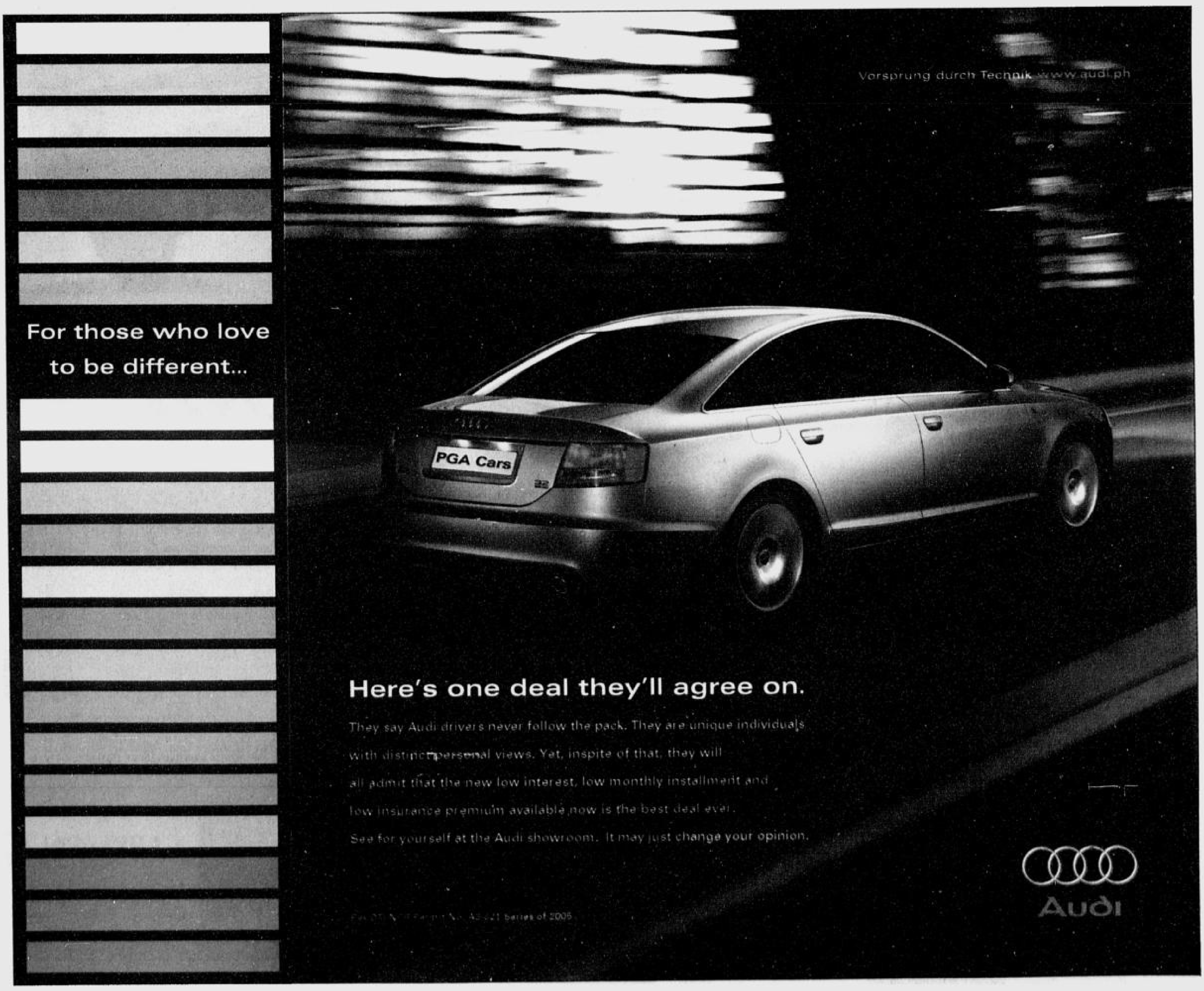
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ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Aida Sevilla Mendoza is out of the country. Her column will be resumed next week.

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Lexus to display 'flagship sedan concept car' at Tokyo Motor Show

TOKYO—LEXUS ANnounced that it plans to display its "Flagship Sedan Concept Car" and two other new concept vehicles—the GS450h, a premium sedan fitted with a newly developed hybrid system, and the LF-A, a premium, two-seater sports car, at the 39th Tokyo Motor Show. The show will be open to the public from Oct. 22 to Nov. 6 at the International Convention Complex (Makuhari Messe) in Makuhari, Chiba.

With its "pursuit of perfection" philosophy, Lexus strives to provide the highest-quality products with an unparalleled purchasing and after-sales service experience. Lexus is also aiming to become the new global premium brand for the 21st century through continued, uncompromised efforts in all aspects of development, production and sales, making every moment for its customers filled with exhilaration and comfort.

The "Flagship Sedan Concept Car"

• **The GS450h.** A premium sedan with a new hybrid system especially developed for front-engine, rear-wheel-drive layouts and aimed at achieving new levels of superior environmental and driving performance befitting a luxury vehicle.

A 3.5-liter, V6 gasoline engine fitted with the new D-4S fuel injection system couples with a high-output electric motor in pursuit of providing 2.0-liter class fuel economy and the output of a 4.5-liter engine, pointing to the direction of powertrains required for premium vehicles.

The GS450h uses cutting-edge technology, such as VDIM, which stabilizes the vehicle's movement, and a Precrash Safety System that reacts in accordance with the direction of the driver's face.

An electronically controlled, six-speed automatic transmission relays the power in this rear-drive vehicle.

Total length: 4,825mm
Total width: 1,820mm
Total height: 1,425mm
Seating capacity: Five

• **The LF-A.** It is a premium, two-seater sports car designed to open the doors to Lexus' world of passionate driving.

The LF-A is designed around the "L-finesse" design concept, aiming to be the embodiment of a high performance coupé.

The engine bay is fitted with a newly developed, high-output V10 engine that takes driving into a different dimension.

Total length: 4,400mm
Total width: 1,860mm
Total height: 1,220mm
Seating Capacity: Two

THE FINE-X is one of the six Toyota concept vehicles to be shown at the 39th Tokyo Motor Show which opens to the public on October 22. With gull wings that open widely and cabin space similar to the Camry's, the Fine-X is powered by a fuel cell hybrid system and its four-wheel independent drive, four-wheel independent steering and large-angle steering mechanism with electric in-wheel motors on each wheel enable the driver to rotate it on the spot and easily perform parking and U-turns. The Fine-X also has the latest ITATS peripheral-motoring technology to make driving easier.

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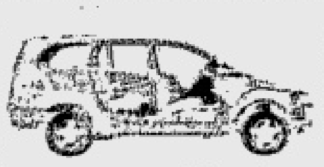

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Thanks to its Toyota Outstanding Performance (TOP) Platform.
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The Innova's highly rigid frame is one tough structure that can withstand any kind of terrain.

Add to that, the front suspension's double wishbone, coil spring and stabilizer, and the 4-link, coil spring, rear suspension and you get one sturdy yet very comfortable vehicle to serve your needs for a very long time. One that was built for the roads of the world.

D-4D VVT-i
The latest 2.5L Common-Rail diesel engine and the 2.0L Variable Valve Timing-intelligent (VVT-i) gasoline engine are both engineered for responsive power, superb drivability and fuel efficiency.

The highly rigid frame was produced by increasing the cross section of the side rails. Stronger cross member joints make for a comfortable ride and lower NVH.

TOP Platform
Built for the roads of the world and shared by all IMV models, the Toyota Outstanding Performance (TOP) Platform is a tough ensemble of the highly rigid frame, independent front suspension and a 4-link rear suspension.

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Tokyo Motor Show to showcase advanced car technologies, designs

THE GT-R PROTO is Nissan's future super car.

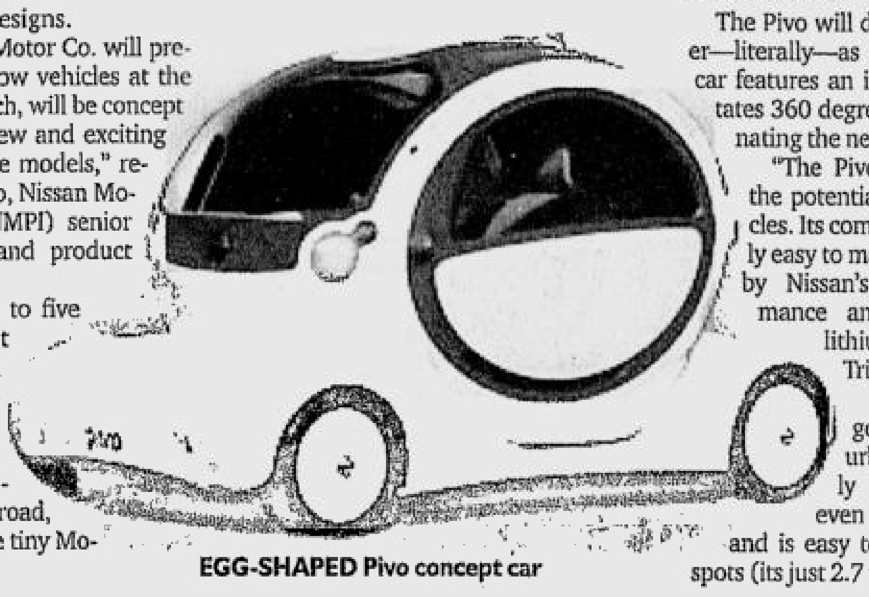
By Charles E. Buban

CONSIDERING JAPAN'S leading status in hybrid and fuel-cell technologies, visitors of this year's Tokyo Motor Show will definitely be treated to an array of next-generation propulsion systems that showcase more power and less emissions than today's gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles.

With the theme "'Driving Tomorrow!' from Tokyo," Japanese automakers consider the 39th Tokyo Motor Show as their chance to further enhance their respective brand identities as well as showcase radically new vehicle designs.

"For its part, Nissan Motor Co. will present a total of eight show vehicles at the motor show, five of which, will be concept cars that incorporate new and exciting ideas for Nissan's future models," reveals Raymond Tribdino, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) senior manager for market and product planning.

Tribdino is referring to five Nissan concept cars—GT-R Proto, Pivo, Foria, Amenio, Note (inspired by sportswear maker Adidas)—and three preview models—Wingroad, Bluebird Sylphy and the tiny Moco.



EGG-SHAPED Pivo concept car

Head turner

The Pivo will definitely be a head turner—literally—as this quirky little electric car features an innovative cabin that rotates 360 degrees on a turntable, eliminating the need for a reverse gear.

"The Pivo concept car examines the potential of future electric vehicles. Its compact body is exceptionally easy to maneuver and it's powered by Nissan's compact, high-performance and environment-friendly lithium-ion battery," explains Tribdino.

Seating three passengers, the Pivo is ideal for urban driving as it can easily pass oncoming traffic even on the narrowest streets and is easy to park in the tightest of spots (its just 2.7 meters long).

Most anticipated

Perhaps, the most anticipated unveiling from Japan's second-biggest auto manufacturer is its GT-R Proto.

This Nissan supercar will provide for the first time a clear indication of the final design direction for the production model, which is expected to roll off in 2007—the first all-new GT-R in eight years.

"The design of the GT-R Proto expresses pure GT-R heritage, coming from its first model in 1969. From its original roots as a pure-bred Japanese performance car, the new GT-R is designed as a specific body style, and not derived from a sedan," says Tribdino.

The 39th edition of the Tokyo Motor Show (Passenger Cars and Motorcycles) will be held at the Makuhari Messe in Chiba City (40 kilometers east of Tokyo) for 17 days until Nov. 6.

Anticipation

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THIS WEEK'S INSTALLMENT IS going to get finished as I finish packing for this year's Tokyo Motor Show. There is really nothing else automotive on my mind right now; the single-minded eagerness of a schoolboy is getting the better of me.

My excitement is bordering on mild mania right now as I wonder how my mind is going to deal with all the information I will be soaking up in the next week. There was actually a plan to put a roll of duct tape in my cabin bag, to keep my head from exploding. I obviously exaggerate but you more or less get the picture.

Obviously, this is my first time to go to the TMS and this is compounded by the fact that I've waited very long for this opportunity. I had placed a trip to either the TMS or the Tokyo Auto Salon as a "definite must do" before I begin to gray. Who would have thought that writing could get one's most fervent imaginings fulfilled? If that very question had been put to me 10 years ago, a cynical "no" would have been the most probable answer.

Right at this very moment, I sit, still stunned by the prospect of the next few days; the enthusiast in me is just a little too eager to finally feel, smell, savor and gawk at the sure spectacle of the 39th TMS. There is just too much that can be seen, or at least planned to be seen.

'Home show'

Major automobile manufacturer in the world will be showing their wares in earnest. One also has to remember that this is the "home show" of quite a few manufacturing giants. All the stops will probably have been pulled already, as this show serves not only the major domestic auto market of Japan, but is very global in nature as well. You'd spend a whole lot of time and money too if the whole world was watching.

It is very easy to talk of how the very scope and nature of any international motor show is overwhelming. Given the small size of our own automotive market, this is but understandable. The real key will be in being able to see the trends for the future, both in possible new vehicles that could be introduced locally and in new technology, like alternative fuel engines and zero emission vehicles.

Still waiting

We are still waiting for the day when these two actions will coincide and the Philippines gets its first delivery of hybrids. Who knows, Tokyo 2005 may actually be the event where this ever so important announcement will be made. The Filipino motorist is really under tremendous pressure due to the seemingly uncontrollable increases in the prices of petroleum. Mr. Japanese Auto Manufacturer, now would be a good a time as any.

All the talk of the practical must also give way to that of passion. Going to any international motorhow and only looking at the economic and ecological would be like going to a toy store and singularly looking at the educational toys.

Don't get me wrong, the need for such things does not escape me but wouldn't it be nice to play with politically-incorrect, gender-insensitive toys once in a while? For the sole reason of the Japanese supercar, this little trip to Tokyo is my equivalent of a pilgrimage to the Vatican—or wherever it is your religion ensures a spiritually-moving experience.

Hotter versions

It is a fortunate time indeed, as quite a few manufacturers have seen the light, announcing the return and arrival of many storied performance platforms. Not wanting to preempt or to spoil, but more to tease and titillate, some may be headed for our shores soon.

Realistically we are talking about hotter versions of more common platforms. They'll probably be more "street racer" rather than out-and-out track weapon. Does it really matter what shape, form or size these factory tuned monsters take in the Philippines? Not really, as any influx of these cars will surely make both our streets and drives more interesting. We will all be in for a few surprises. For sure.

Without further ado, I ask to take a brief leave of Manila's toxic traffic and the inanity of our drivers. Even just for this short week, I'm sure my sabbatical from the horrors of having to operate a motor vehicle in the Philippines will certainly lower my blood pressure and steady my nerves. Yet even as I speak so spitefully, I'm sure I'll miss the whole chaotic lot of it—as I always do when I leave.

THE
END
IS
NEAR!

GMA orders review of motorcycle ban on freeways

By Alcuin Papa

PRETTY SOON, MOTORCYCLES OF ALL types will be allowed to enter the tollways.

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently ordered the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) to review the ban on motorcycles below 400cc on all Luzon expressways.

The President issued the directive to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza during her meeting with members and officials of Motorcycle Philippines Federation (MCPF) and representatives of the motorcycle manufacturers and dealers at Malacañang's Heroes Hall on Sept. 21.

"The main job of Secretary Mendoza now is to review the ban on motorcycles on the tollways because this is your No. 1 concern," the President said.

She made the statement after Frank Woolf, MCPF director for administration and publishing, made a presentation on the problems and concerns of motorcycle organizations.

Study proposals

Arroyo also asked Mendoza to study the proposals presented by the MCPF and compare existing motorcycle rules in the country with those of other countries "so that we will be comparable internationally."

Woolf assured the President that "the MCPF and its members would like to play their part in reducing gas consumption and traffic congestion, increasing public safety and tourism while developing long-term cooperation with the government."

Christopher "Mayor Bandido" Dy-Liaco Flores, MCPF director, said the review of the ban is a big step in the campaign for the rights of motorcycle riders.

"I think we are getting somewhere after years of struggle for access to tollways. It's only a matter of time before we can be granted full access," Flores said.

At present, authorities have disallowed motorcycles with engine displacements below 400cc to use either the North and South expressways. The motorcycle community has over the years been challenging the ban in courts.

Other issues

Flores added that MCPF officials and the President also discussed other issues such as the discrimination and bias against motorcycle riders.

Arroyo also told the MCPF that she is a supporter of the motorcycle community and had in fact organized Karancho, a motorcycle association in Davao del Norte and Davao City

"And it became very big and had spread all over Mindanao and parts of the Visayas. So I do recognize the great service that cyclists, motorcyclists give to the community," she said.

On the issue of allowing motorcycles to use public utility bus lanes, the President encouraged all cities to create more motorcycle parking lanes, and the city councils to work with motorcyclists and the MCPF to stop criminals using motorcycles instead of penalizing innocent drivers.

She also advised supporters of the proposal to allow motorcycles to use bus lanes to make their advocacy directly to the specific city or local government units (LGUs).

Flores also revealed that other government agencies like the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Department of Energy and the DOTC have been reaching out to the MCPF to establish closer ties for coordination on some issues like traffic management and energy conservation.

Gaining acceptance

"This means that the motorcycle community is slowly gaining wide acceptance. What is important is the government's recognition that we are partners in matters pertaining to the motorcycle community as well as on other issues," Flores said.

Aside from Mendoza, Transportation Assistant Secretary Anneli Lontoc accompanied the officials and representatives of the motorcycle organizations, dealers and manufacturers to Malacañang.

THE RACE to finish first, not in class, but on the track.

The 'UAAP of karting' heating up

By Tessa R. Salazar

YOU THINK THAT, WITH the end of the UAAP games, the adrenaline rush is over? Before you raise the checkered flag on excitement, stop and listen for the high-pitched din of small but powerful engines.

Students can look forward to more intense, fast action this last quarter of the year. And it's happening on a four-wheeled vehicle no larger and no taller than the teacher's desk, but faster than an eraser hurled at a daydreaming kid: the go-kart.

Competition

Events company Inno-vents and the Tuason Racing School (the only school for go-kart and circuit car racing) have created a competition where students can show their school's racing spirit in an interschool kart race.

For the past few months, Tuason Racing instructors have been scouting for future karting champions (disguised as students, so speaking) in different school campuses and malls, recruiting karting hopefuls and the curious alike to sign up and suit up as a team of six schoolmates.

After attending orientation classes and hands-on karting clinics at the Speedzone at The Fort in Makati, it was time for the elimination rounds. Here, the team that completes the best lap times will represent their school and advance to the finals where they will go head to head with the other teams from the other schools.

Kartfest clinics

Thames School, San Beda, University of Asia and the Pacific already held their kartfest clinics and qualifying rounds at the Speedzone Oct. 8; Ateneo de Manila University Oct. 9 and 15. The all-girl Assumption College team is slated to hold its kartfest clinic on Oct. 22, along with UP Diliman.

A minimum of 50 and maximum of 64 students are allowed for each kartfest clinic. Supporting Kartfest 2005 are Addict Mobile, Petron, Penshoppe, San Mig Strong Ice, Epson, and Oakley. List-ups are still ongoing. Call Robbie Cupino at 747-2378, 635-2578 or 0920-9286928.

Frank Biela, Emanuele Pirro discuss the 2005 season

BIELA

FRANK BIELA, 41, AND EMANUELE Pirro, 43, won the 2005 American Le Mans series (ALMS) Drivers' Championship in the team ADT Champion Racing Audi R8. They were presented with their trophy at the ALMS championship gala in Monterey (California) on Sunday evening. The two Audi works drivers discuss their winning streak in the USA and their plans for the future.

What does winning the title mean to you?

Frank Biela: An enormous amount. Every title is great. However, after the difficult DTM year, this 'comeback' feels particularly good. It's fair to say that the self-confidence did suffer a little last season."

Emanuele Pirro: After last season didn't run as expected, it was important for me to be competitive again, and we were exactly that the whole year. That we also won the championship is obviously fantastic. It gave me confidence and motivation back.

How difficult was the jump from the Audi A4 DTM back to the R8?

Biela: I didn't find it as difficult as the jump the other way. I think that my driving style suits the R8 more than that required in the DTM at the moment. I couldn't change the driving style I'd been born with. That's why stepping back into the sportscar was much easier. After two or three races I felt completely at home again.

Pirro: I often drove in different race series at the same time earlier in my career and never had a problem getting used to the various cars. In the DTM I had to force myself to change my driving style. The DTM demands a special driving style, on which I worked for a year. That's why I had to rediscover my normal driving style for the R8. But it didn't take very long.

The Audi R8 will now be put out to pasture, what meaning did the R8 have for your career?

Pirro: Everybody knows that the Audi R8 is an extraordinary car. But as is usually the case, you'll realize only much later just how unique the Audi's run of success really was. I'm proud to have been a part of the project. I won the first race, took the first Le Mans victory and also now the last championship for the R8.

Biela: The Audi R8 has a very special place in my career—simply because of the six long years that I spent driving the car. And obviously because of the sweet success: Le Mans, American Le Mans, Sebring and I've won a lot of great races and championships with the R8."

From your point of view how was the 2005 season?

Biela: Very good. There was a short acclimatization period in the first three races. The turning point came after Le Mans with three successive victories. Everything ran very smoothly. The team works extremely well. The atmosphere in the team is incredibly good. The season was big fun. Winning the championship was the icing on the cake.

Pirro: "Things improved constantly. We started the season with a couple of question marks hanging in the air. After two or three races they were gone. Things actually went better than expected. At the end it was almost too easy, we won the championship at the penultimate race of the season."

What is the special charm of endurance racing and the American Le Mans series?

Pirro: The best thing is that you have to drive flat out all the time in today's long-distance races. In a modern long-distance race every tenth of a second counts, even in the 24 Hours of Le Mans. In the past, it never occurred to me to look after the car and tires during a long-distance race. Furthermore, it's a great feeling to have a team mate with who you get on so well. The races in America are something very special. The circuits are fabulous. You don't have as much fun on the modern European circuits. There is also a fantastic atmosphere in America."

Biela: First and foremost the type of race car is excellent. Driving a sportscar is a huge amount of fun, and the races are interesting. There are driver changes, and strategy plays an important role. The American race tracks are fantastic. Flying backwardand forwards across the Atlantic is stressful, but the races in the USA are simply great fun.

In the meantime you are both over 40. How much longer do you want to drive?

Biela: It's clear that this question is posed more frequently when you are over 40. I'm now 41. I hope that I have another two, three or four competitive years in me. We'll see what I do afterward, just how competitive I'll still be and whether I'm still enjoying myself. At the moment I definitely want to continue driving."

Pirro: "I'd like to drive for a few more years. I'd certainly like to finish my career at Audi. I owe Audi a great deal, but have also given Audi a lot. I'd like to sit down with Dr Ullrich (head of Audi Motorsport) and decide together when the time is ripe to retire. However, at the moment I feel top fit and in good form. And I still have a lot of fun racing."

In the Philippines, PGA Cars is the importer of Audi vehicles. For further information on the Audi R8 as well as Audi vehicles currently available in the market—the A4 2.0 sedan and Avant, the A4 1.8 Turbo sedan, the A6 2.4 and 3.0 sedan, and the A8 Lang 3.0 and 4.2 sedan—please call 727-0381 up to 85, cell phone 09209701990 or you may visit the PGA Cars Audi showroom at 201 Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Test-drive arrangements are welcome. You may also send an e-mail to sales@audi.ph or visit the website of PGA Cars Audi website, www.audi.ph.

'Guilt-free' vehicles, concept cars featured at Tokyo Motor Show

MITSUBISHI Outlander

By Tessa R. Salazar

TOKYO—AN AUTOMOBILE FESTIVAL showing the evolution of vehicles into an ever more environment-friendly direction has gathered 240 exhibitors from 12 countries at Makuhari Messe in Chiba Prefecture just outside of Tokyo.

The 39th edition of the biennial Tokyo Motor Show is also proving a magnet for thousands of motoring writers from around the world to spot the latest concept cars and witness the first few sparks of possibly the next "big bang" in automotive history—the rise of hybrid vehicles.

With the theme "Driving Tomorrow," the motor show, which opened to the media today, features carmakers parading new environment-friendly "guiltless engines." The show, which will be open to the public from Oct. 22 to Nov. 6, will offer more hands-on special programs and visitor participation.

The Tokyo Motor Show is among the "big five" international motor shows that include the Detroit, Frankfurt, Paris and Geneva Motor Shows.

'Guiltless' vehicles

Among the "guiltless" vehicles expected to grab the spotlight at the show is Mitsubishi's next-generation electric engine, the MIEV (Mitsubishi In-Wheel Electric Vehicle). This engine will be highlighted along with Mitsubishi's other new technologies, rally machines, welfare cars and current production models.

Mitsubishi Motors has lined up 14 cars during press days, and three more when the show opens to the public.

Mitsubishi's highlight car is its Concept-X equipped with a 2.0-liter 4-cylinder DOHC Mivec intercooler-turbocharged engine. It also features Mitsubishi's 4WD-based Super All-Wheel-Control vehicle dynamics control system. It has been dubbed by Mitsubishi engineers as the "very embodiment of driving pleasure" and carries over the full flavor of Lancer Evolution's Spartan road machine image.

The Mitsubishi Concept-D:5 is powered by the same all-new 2.4-liter Mivec engine of the Outlander. The Concept-D:5 is a lightweight and compact aluminum unit that delivers high output while consuming low fuel and having low emissions. The powertrain mates the engine to a Sport Mode 6-speed CVT to deliver powerful and tough motive performance.

3 new values

Mitsubishi's "I" is a show car developed to an "innovative new-age minicar" key phrase. The i gives a sneak peek at the growth of a market for a new breed of minicar. i proposes the following three new values:

- A comfortable marriage between original exterior lines and roomy interior living space;
- All-directional crashworthiness;
- Nimble, athletic performance and a classy ride.

The i design shows the one-motion silhouette that appears to gently cocoon its occupants, while the large diameter wheels and tires and the 2,550mm super-long wheelbase combine to project a new sense of movement that is nimble and pleasing to the eye.

i is powered by a brand-new 3-cylinder intercooler-turbocharged Mivec engine (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve Timing Electronic Control) that pumps out a muscular 47 kW (64 PS) of power.

Production models

The current production models on display include the brand-new Outlander launched Oct. 17. The Outlander is an all-new mid-size SUV with a newly developed platform that features increased crashworthiness and body stiffness.

It features a brand-new powertrain that mates an aluminum cylinder block 2.4-liter 16-valve DOHC Mivec engine to a new Sport Mode 6-speed CVT. And with an aluminum roof panel and mono-tube shock absorbers, Outlander borrows heavily from technology nurtured in the Lancer Evolution series to deliver hard-hitting on-road performance that raises the bar for SUVs. A legitimate on-road SUV, the Outlander seats five to seven persons.

The Lancer Evolution MIEV is a proposal for next-generation electric vehicles that utilizes to the maximum the environmental technology Mitsubishi Motors has developed over the years. The offspring of a marriage between such environmental technologies and Mitsubishi Motors' sporty characteristics, the Lancer Evolution MIEV is derived from the Lancer Evolution IX.

Utilizing the advantages offered by the electric powertrain to craft smooth and slippery, low-drag body lines, the styling imparts an aggressive wind-cleaving look to the body. Riding on large wheels and tires, the Lancer Evolution MIEV projects a tempting taste of its potent new-age sport driving potential. *With a report from Mitsubishi Motors Japan*

Global car output to rise 20% in 5 years

AN EXPECTED 20 PERCENT-JUMP IN GLOBAL car output in the next five years will keep supplies tight for a while in high-quality car-use steel as well as iron ore and other raw materials used in steel production, Japan's Kobe Steel Ltd. said on Monday.

Hideki Nakamura, a senior executive at the nation's fourth-biggest steel maker, said Japanese steel makers will further accelerate a shift to high-end steel from commodity grade products to keep up with demand, while stepping up technological cooperation with carmakers to raise profitability.

Strong demand

"We expect demand for high-end steel used in cars to continue tight until 2010, despite a boost in (commodity grade steel) production by mills in China, India, Taiwan and others," Nakamura told an auto industry conference.

"Suppliers of iron ore and other raw materials won't be able to keep up with strong demand for a while, given an estimated 20 percent jump in steel demand over the next five years," he told the Tokyo International Automotive Conference.

The conference is one of a series of events preceding the Tokyo Motor Show, which opens next Saturday and runs until Nov. 6.

US research firm J.D. Power estimates global auto production will grow to 79 million vehicles in 2010, up from 66 million 2004, led by strong growth in China.

Record-high profit

Japan's top four steel makers, including the world's third-biggest, Nippon Steel Corp., expect record-high profit for the year to March as they won better-than-expected price rises in the first half from domestic automakers in the face of record raw material costs.

High-quality sheet steel used in cars and ships now accounts for up to 85 percent of their business.

Iron ore miners, led by Brazil's CVRD, Rio Tinto Plc./Ltd. and BHP Billiton Plc./Ltd., secured a 71.5 percent increase in prices for shipments in the financial year to next March.

Japanese carmakers' Chinese production will double between 2004 and 2015, Akira Mabuchi, vice president of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., told the industry conference. *Reuters*

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TMP FOUNDATION believes the donation is in keeping with its mission to improve the quality of life of schoolchildren everywhere.

Toyota goes beyond car making

By Charles E. Buban

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES Corp. through the TMP Foundation recently turned over a school building to Aplaya Elementary School in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, as part of its initiative to support the Department of Labor and Employment's Classroom Galing sa Manggagawang Filipino Abroad (CGMA) program.

According to TMP Foundation president Dr. David Go, the donation is one less school building to construct as the program aims to build 500 classrooms for public elementary and high schools throughout the Philippines to alleviate the 44,000-classroom shortage in public schools.

"We feel the donation is in keeping with our mission of improving the quality of life of schoolchildren everywhere. We would like to see the management of Aplaya Elementary School use the building to expand its educational services around this coastal barangay of Santa Rosa City," says Go.

Conducive environment

He adds that the youth should be provided with pleasant and conducive environment to enhance their learning processes and love for education.

The TMP Foundation's educational endeavors also cover scholarships and professorial grants for higher learning and vocational training for those technically inclined individuals.

In addition to the school building donation, the TMP Foundation is also supporting the Adopt-A-School program of the Department of Education and in the past has donated training equipment and facilities not only in the Laguna province but also in several provinces in the Visayas.

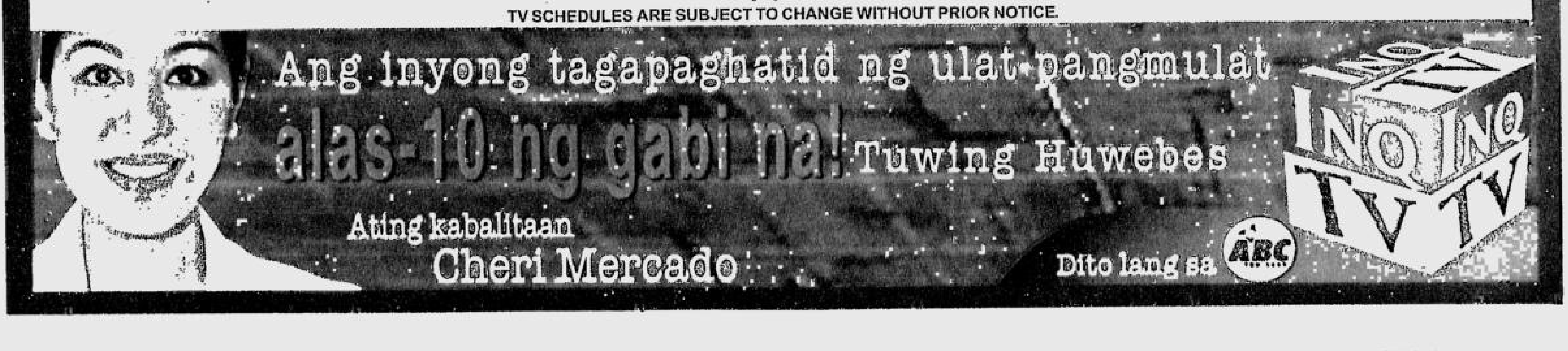
TMP, the country's largest motor vehicle manufacturer, is headquartered in an 82-hectare complex in Sta. Rosa.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Wednesday, October 19, 2005

ALL NEW SEASON THE APPRENTICE MONDAY 10PM SEE IT FIRST ON ABC
ALL NEW SERIES THE APPRENTICE Martha Stewart TUESDAY 10PM
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Kasangga Kontra Krimen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Rockstar: Inxs		Dokyu	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Cinemanila Int'l Film Fest Awards Night 2005		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TESDA		Global Family Series		Legacy Of Hero		Navy Medicine At War	Global Family Series	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kaligtasan		Music Video		Shepherds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C S I (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah	Got Hitch'd	Travel Show
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	Pop Up	Hanging Out	The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach		VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN			Mlb Championship Series						Figure Skating		Goals! Goals Celebration	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05		Mlb Championship Series				
Solar Sports													Sports Desk					NBA Action	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				This Is The PGA Tour		UAW-GM Quality 500 Highlights		US OPEN 2005 Men's Doubles Final				Slipstream		Nopi Tunervision	BD Rio de Janeiro	Ultimate Fighting Championship			
Cinemax			The Last Hurrah (3:45 PM)				The Perfect Husband				Witchboard 2 (7:20 PM)			Bad Boys II					Arcana (11:20PM)
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Agency II		Burn			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unitalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Mostly True Stories		Failure Analysis		Wild Science		Risk Takers		Pompeii-The Last Day		Hour China		Wild Science		Warrior Women With Lucy Lawless Year 2002		Hour Asia	
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes		Last Chance Journeys		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe: San Francisco Earthquake/Nat Geographic Specials Unlocking DA Vinci's Code		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	Cow At The Moo-vies	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron/Romeo/ As Told By Ginger/Viewers Choice			1, 2, 3	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	ChalkZone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?		
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	Mary Kate & Ashley Olsen		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		Medical Investigation		The Practice		Friends	One Tree Hill
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias (Season III)		Pensacola (Season III)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filler	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Commited	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		L.A. County 187			Out of Africa (4:20 PM)					For Richer Or Poorer				The Matrix Reloaded				Everyday People (11:15PM)	
Star Movies			Identity Theft			Instinct (5:05 PM)				Hollow Man (7:10 PM)				Direct Action			Heart Of The Storm		
Cinema One		Huwag Mo Kaming Isumpa				Ikaw Lang				Totoho At Rosas			Persona	Minsan Minahal Kita (9:15 PM)				Ex-Con	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factory C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	The Virtues: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

LIFESTYLE

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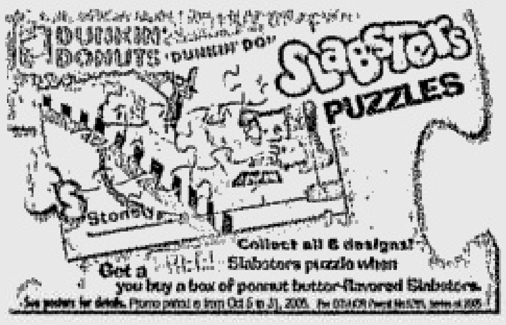
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

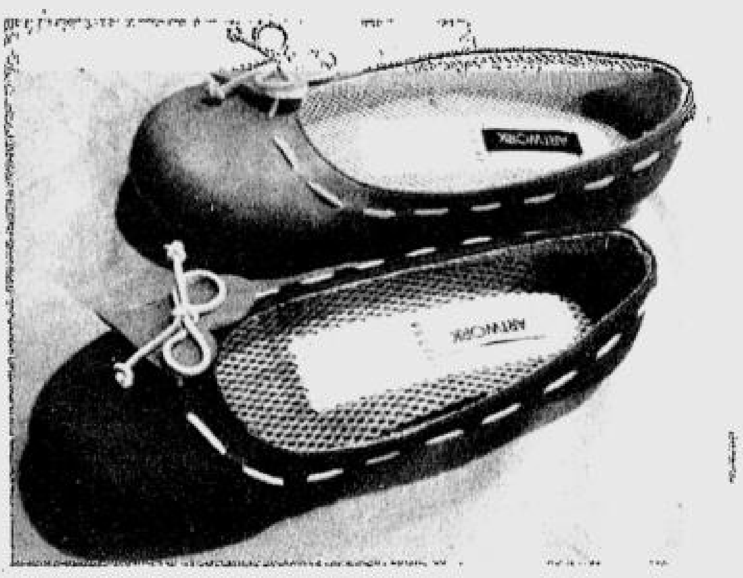

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Slabsters PUZZLES
Collect all 6 designs!
Get a Slabsters puzzle when you buy a box of peanut butter-flavored Slabsters.
See posters for details. Promo period is from Oct 5 to 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

young to be you to be young · To be you! · 2bU

FOUNTAIN of youth. Shirt, P329.75

Art you can wear

Don't you want to slip on a masterpiece?



WEAR your heart on your... feet? Shoes, P599.95

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

SOME STORES ARE JUST stores. You walk in, you choose something, you pay for it, they bag it, you walk out.

Some stores are not just stores. You walk in but you can't just choose something because you want so many things. And you can't just walk out because you've fallen in love.

That's what happened to us at Artwork.

Run by 26-year-old John Justo Villamiel with the help of his dad and his mom who started the business in 1989, Artwork will soon have 36 branches nationwide.

. We walked into their Glorietta store and were swept off our feet by a whirlwind of col-

ART/ C2

TMI here!
call 8-700-700 for details

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*For 3 and 6 months terms of payment
Per DTI_NCR Permit No. A3-848 Series of 2005

SUPER
Super Bowl of China
SNACKTIME MEALS
SUPER SNACK 1 P80 1pc BBQ Pork Siopao 2pcs Pork Siomai, Iced Tea*
SUPER SNACK 2 P80 Wanton Noodle Soup 1pc BBQ Pork Siopao, Iced Tea*
SUPER SNACK 3 P80 Birthday Noodles Iced Tea*
SUPER SNACK 4 P70 Halo-halo Congee Iced Tea*
SUPER SNACK 5 P95 Braised Beef Brisket Noodle Soup Iced Tea*
SUPER SNACK 6 P60 2pcs Sesame Balls or Peanut Buchi 2 pcs Crunchy Banana Balls Iced Tea**
SUPER SNACK 7 P75 Mango Pudding or Mango Sago Iced tea**
SUPER SNACK 8 P50 Almond Jelly w/ Mixed Fruits Iced Tea**
SUPER DELIVERY 737-8888
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[illegible]

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P 30 - 49	4	3 days
P 50 - 74	8	7 days

DENOMINATIONS	FREE TEXT	VALIDITY
P 75 - 99	12	10 days
P100 - 124	16	15 days
P125 - 149	20	20 days
P150	25	30 days

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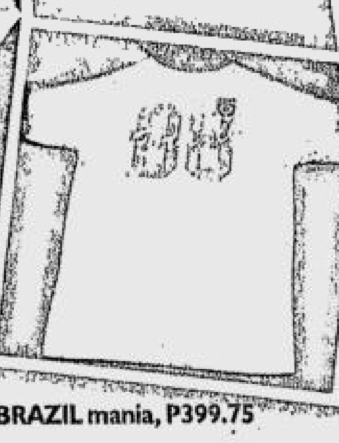
For more information regarding Sun Xpress Load, visit our website at www.suncellular.com.ph

CONFESSIONS on a shirt. P309.75

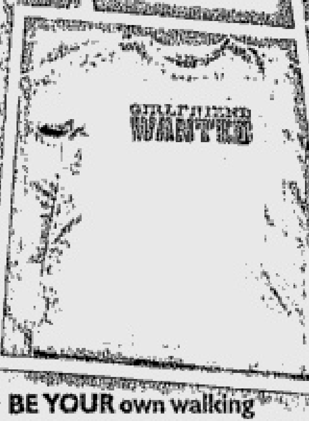
SUMO. Guy's shirt, P459.75

MEAN GIRL. Shirt, P309.75



BRAZIL mania, P399.75

POP SHOP. Artwork is home to your favorite pop culture icons.



BE YOUR own walking advertisement. Shirt, P399.75

WEAR YOUR WORDS. Shirt, P329.75

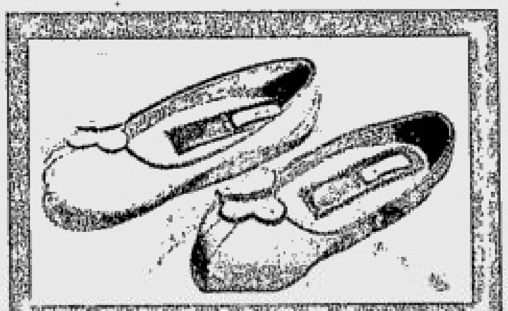
READ it and wear it. Tank top, P269.75

Art you Can Wear

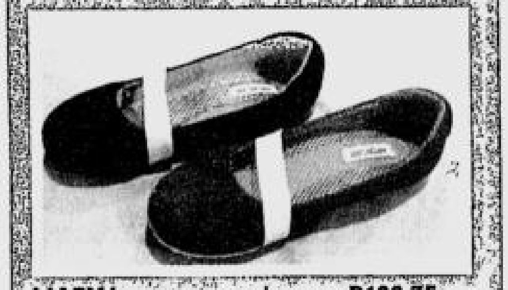
SOME like it hot. Shirt, P329.75

THE MASK. Shirt, P309.75

FUNNY. Shirt, 329.75



BUTTERFLY beauties, P599.95



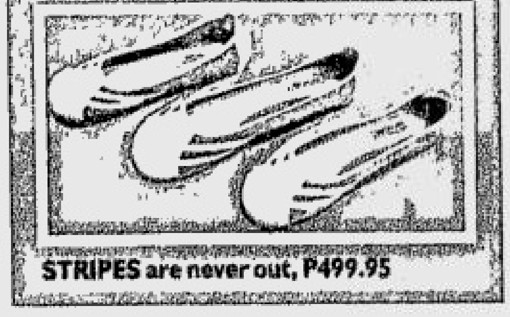
MARY Janes get a makeover, P699.75

VELCRO makes life so easy, P950

LOOK ma, no laces, P499.95

THONGS, P299.95

WHITE and floral Mary Janes, P950



STRIPES are never out, P499.95

From page C1

ors, pop culture icons and creativity.

Beatles and Jimi Hendrix throw pillows, Mona Lisa and Madonna bags, Bob Marley bandannas, Marilyn Monroe and Elvis shirts, Campbell's soup undies—all these are available at Artwork.

Attitude

And the place offers so much more than just pop culture. There are shirts with an extra dose of attitude (our favorites include the "If it's too loud... you're too old," "Whisper my favorite words, 'I'll buy it for you'" and "The secret to staying young is lying about your age" shirts), caps, bags of all kinds, and jeans.

Prices are unbelievably affordable. Shirts go from P300 to a little over P400, throw pillows are sold at P249.75, jeans go from P769.95 to P799.95 while bag prices start at around P280.

Another major attraction are the shoes. We love the little surprises—the neon insole, the little butterflies, floral appliqués, the use of different materials, the garter strap that adds definition.

The pairs are funky and comfortable. You can wear them to school, to the mall and some even to work. There are sandals and flats and Mary Janes in delicious colors and designs, some sold for as low as P299.95. The most expensive ones go for P950—still very reasonable.

Local design

But over and above the affordability, the best thing about Artwork is that all the products are designed and made locally.

The shoes are designed by Honey Huertas, while Cristina, John's sister, heads the team of five in-house young artists who work on the designs of the clothes, the bags and the accessories.

It's clear to see that color combinations are well thought of. Unlike your normal mass-produced shirt, Artwork's designs don't come in every color imaginable, only in the ones the artists think really go well with the style.

"The conceptualization of just one shirt takes longer than it seems, sometimes as long as two weeks," John says.

They also take special pride in the printing they use. "It's the same kind used by Ambercrombie & Fitch and Old Navy."

New designs come in every two weeks, making sure there's always something fresh waiting for you at the store.

The brand is more than just a brand. It has become a venue for young artists to express themselves and share their work with other people.

And when you think about it, Artwork really isn't just a store. It's more of a gallery.

"Every shirt is a work of art," says John. We wouldn't disagree. Now wouldn't you want to wear a masterpiece?

JACK for Jill. Shirt, P339.75

Artwork offers so much more than just pop culture.
There are shirts with an extra dose of attitude, caps,
bags of all kinds, and jeans—all at unbelievably affordable prices

OPTICAL illusion. Shirt, P339.75

YOU can find many vintage-looking shirts at Artwork.

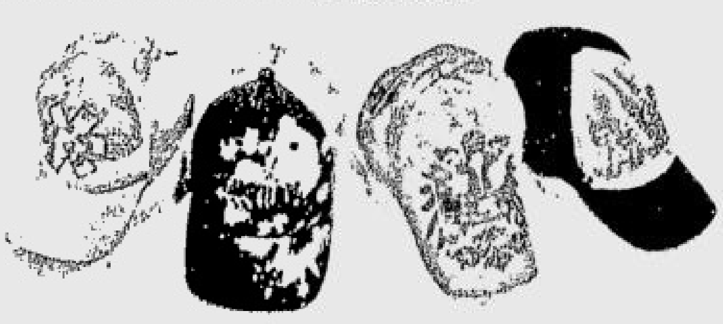
OUCH. Shirt, P329.75

Check out Artwork at Glorietta, Alabang Town Center, Market! Market!, Ever Recto, Tutuban, Sta. Lucia East, Festival Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, Gaisano Davao, Robinsons Pampanga, Bacolod and Metro East and SM malls nationwide. Artwork will soon be open in SM Molino, Metropoint, SM Mall of Asia and SM Sta. Rosa.

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com

ELVIS lives on. Bag, P279.75

GIRLS just wanna have fun. Bag, P349.75



ARTWORK from head to toe. Caps, P220

BEATLEMANIA. Throw pillows, P249.75

DON'T wait in vain. Bag, P279.75

MONA Lisa, Mona Lisa, Mona Lisa. Bag, P279.75

To mix music and fashion is to be human

COMPOSED OF THE Baguio-raised Romawac siblings—Hannah (vocalist and rhythm guitarist), Chavi (drummer) and JV (percussionist)—as well as Coy Placido (lead guitarist) and Richard Placido (bassist), Session Road has gone beyond experimental musical compositions. It is now into fashion.

The soulful quintet has discovered self-articulation through fashion, and now moves to the rhythm of life's feasts and foibles dressed in Human, the sporty streetwear brand popular among the younger set.

It's no surprise that Human's edgy street styles and sporty designs have found an audience in the alternative funk band scene. Sporty streetwear has now become so versatile that Human can be worn not only in sports-related activities but also to school, on casual night outs and, like Session Road, to musical events.

The designs go perfectly with Session Road, which is livening up the local bar scene every Wednesday night at Unplugged in Malate and Thursday night at Xaymaca on Timog Ave.

Human sportwear and streetwear are available at all Human outlets in all major malls in the Philippines.

YOUNG talents breaking loose

SESSION Road's JV Romawac, Hannah Romawac, Coy Placido, Richard Carandang and Chavi Romawac

CHILLING out in Human tees

CATCH Session Road Wednesdays at Unplugged Malate and Thursdays at Xaymaca.

Walang Tiyan & Walang Puson

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25 PERRY ELLIS 360 100 mL
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PLUS! Get a FREE Ladies' Shirt
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25 years Fashion everyday

See mechanics posters for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6065 Series of 2005

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From September 28 to October 27, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5797, Series of 2005.

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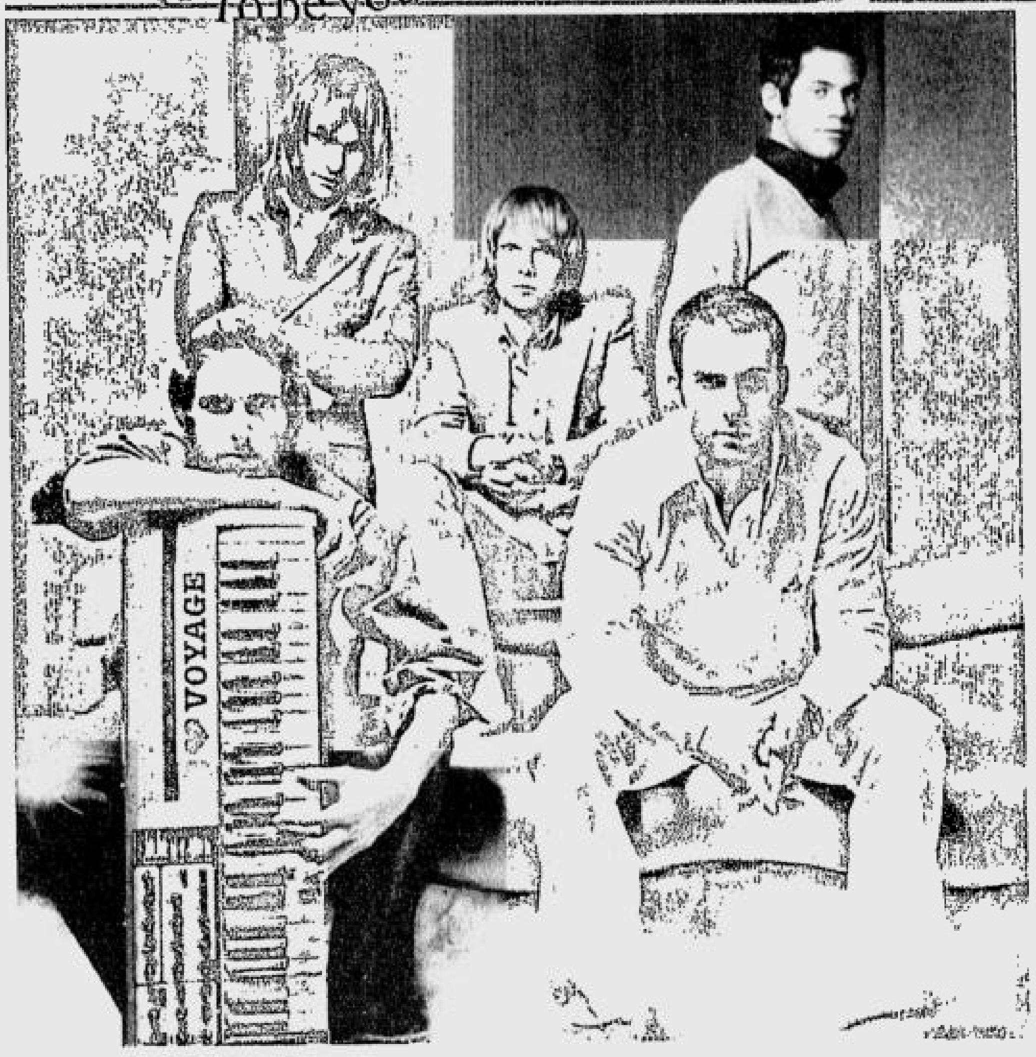

2BU! EXCLUSIVE

Taking five with Maroon 5

2bU! spends some downtime with the hot band

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

REALLY, DO THESE GUYS even need an introduction?

For the past three years, the hunky pop-rock quintet has become a household name, effortlessly churning out romping radio hits and equally popular videos. How could anyone forget "This Love" and "She Will Be Loved?"

Following their multiplatinum debut "Songs About Jane" and the live album "1.22.03.Acoustic," they've just released a CD/DVD combo set entitled "Live: Friday The 13th" a few weeks ago, probably to whet their fans' appetite while they're working on their

TAKING/ D4

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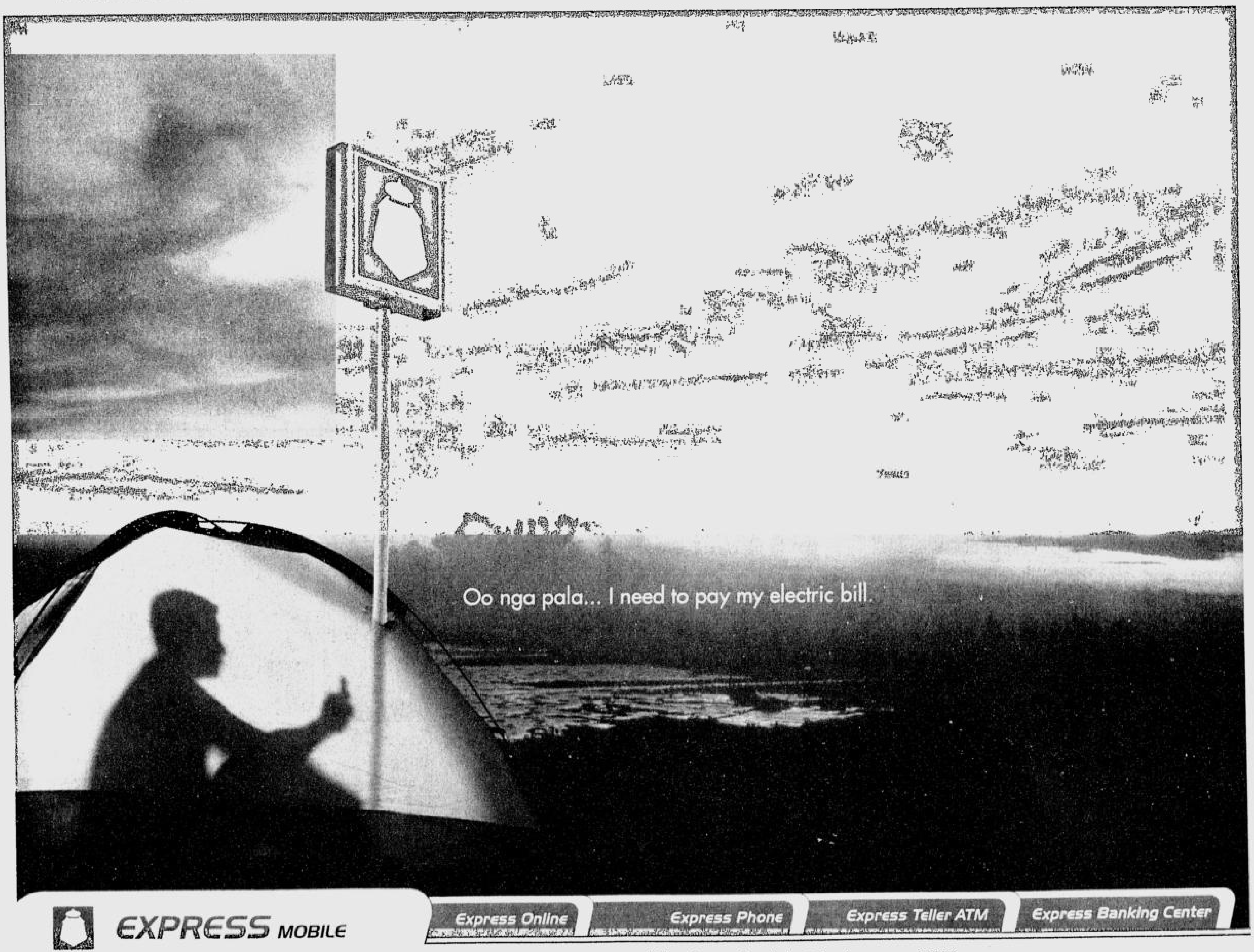

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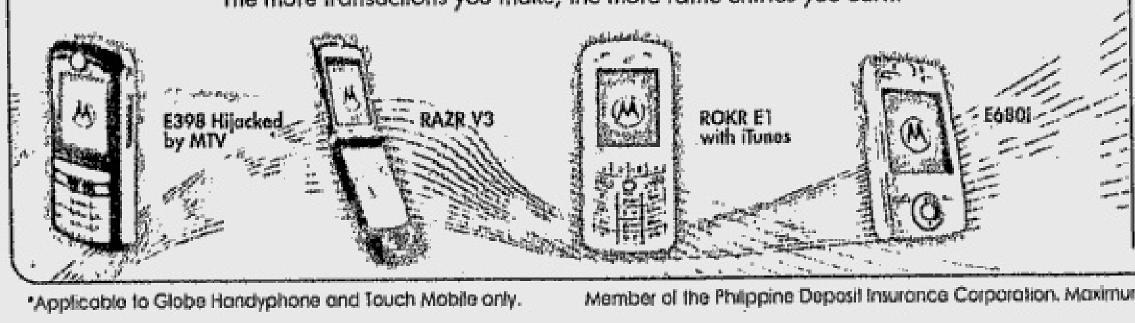

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2. Each transaction made via BPI Express Mobile will correspond to a specified number of raffle entries. To get a chance to win, a client must be an active Express Mobile user at the time of the draw.
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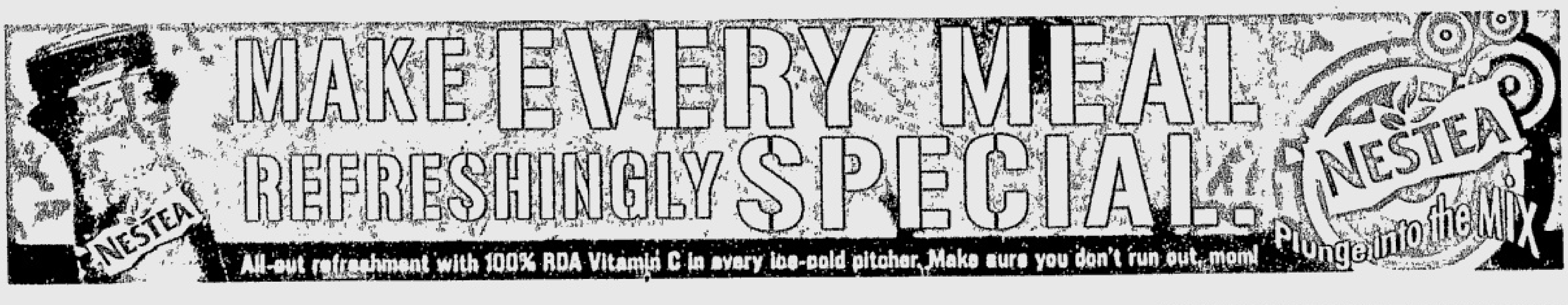
• November 9: 5 units Motorola E398 Hijacked and 5 units Motorola RAZR V3
• December 9: 5 units Motorola E398 Hijacked and 5 units Motorola E680i
• January 11: 10 units Motorola ROKR E1
Hurry! Promo runs until Dec. 31, 2005.
*Applicable to Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile only. Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each depositor P250,000. See flyers for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5529, Series of 2005.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NESTEA
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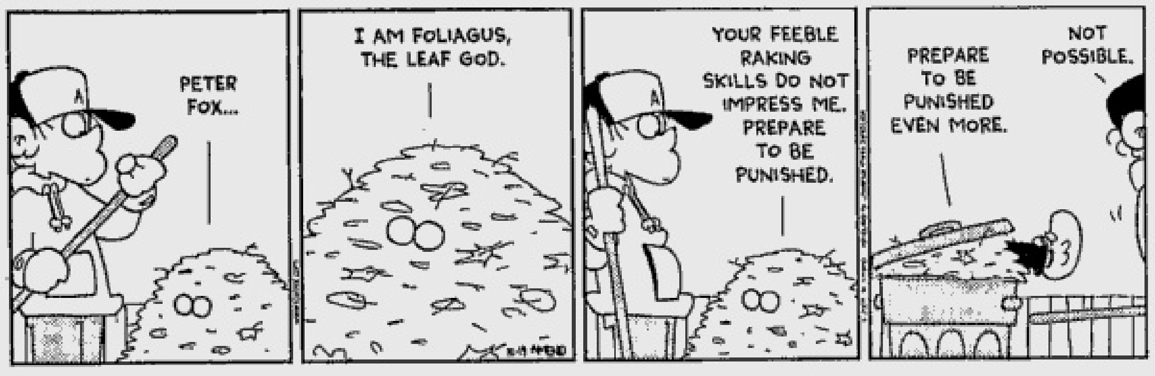
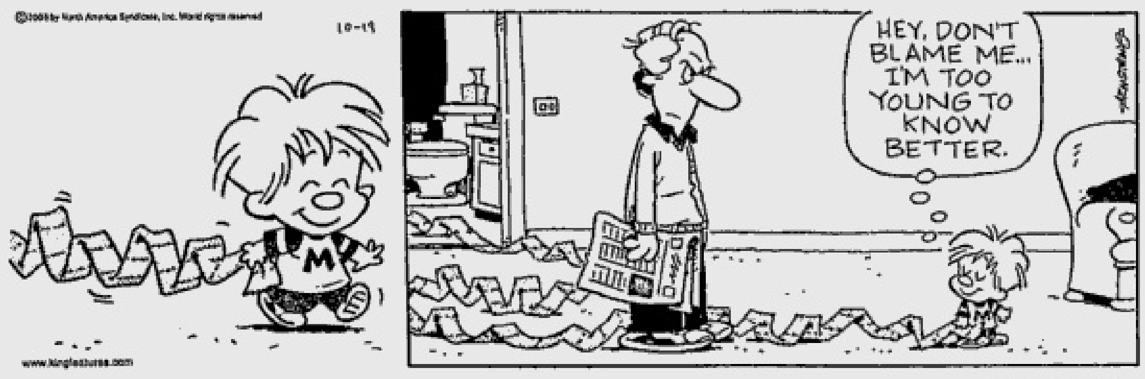

PETER FOX...
I AM FOLIAGUS, THE LEAF GOD.
YOUR FEEBLE RAKING SKILLS DO NOT IMPRESS ME. PREPARE TO BE PUNISHED.
PREPARE TO BE PUNISHED EVEN MORE.
NOT POSSIBLE.

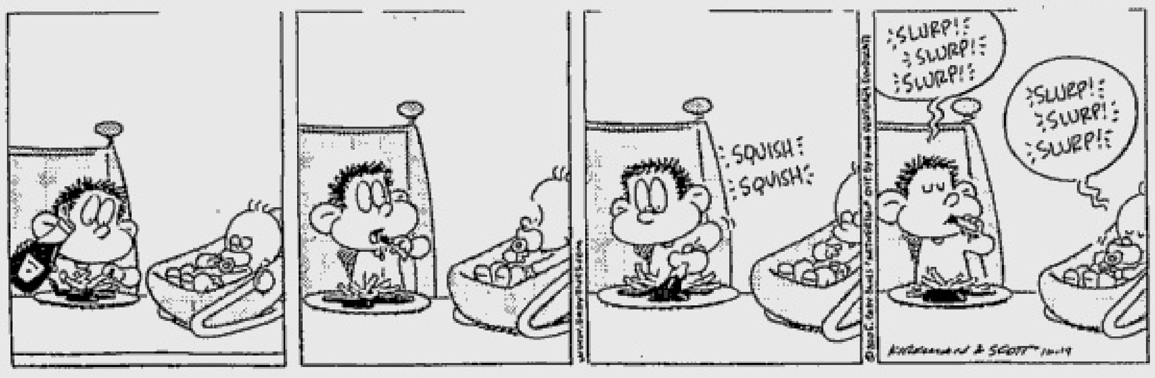
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


10-19
HEY, DON'T BLAME ME... I'M TOO YOUNG TO KNOW BETTER.
M
www.kingfeatures.com

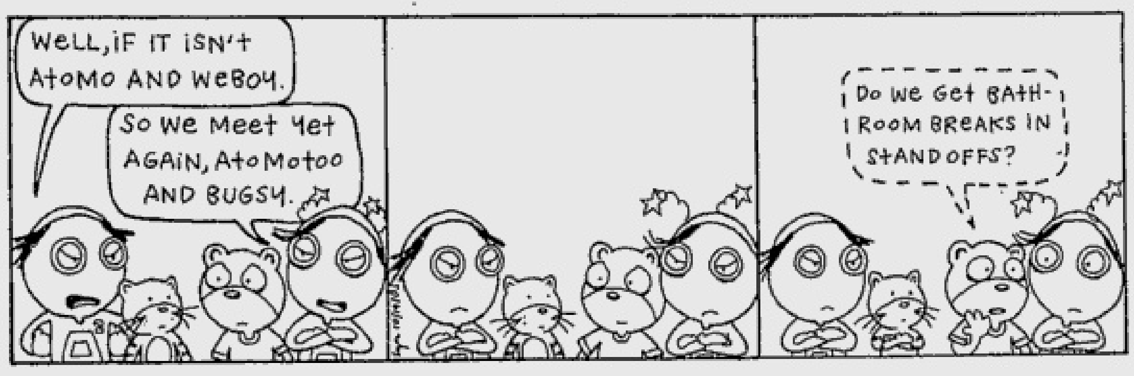
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SQUISH! SQUISH!
SLURP! SLURP! SLURP!
SLURP! SLURP! SLURP!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 10-19

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, IF IT ISN'T ATOMO AND WEBOY.
SO WE MEET YET AGAIN, ATOMOTOO AND BUGSY.
DO WE GET BATH-ROOM BREAKS IN STANDOFFS?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're independent. You march to your own drum. You want to expose in justice and shine the light of truth on what you see. Although sociable, you work behind the scenes in a secretive way. This is a time of wrapping up things you've been involved with for the past nine or 10 years. Time to move on.
Birthdate of: John Le Carre, author; Peter Max, artist; Ty Pennington, TV host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a poor day to shop or make important purchases. Try to hold off if you can. Of course, you can shop for food, but that's about it. (Save your receipts.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a willy-nilly day. Don't make promises to anyone. Do not agree to important things. Don't take on new responsibilities. Don't make appointments. Delay these things until tomorrow.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a vague, uneasy day. However, it can be excellent for creative activities, meditation, yoga or just enjoying your own solitude.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to goof off with friends. However, don't make promises to anybody. Just party and have a good time! Keep your spending down. Avoid major purchases.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a poor day to have important discussions with bosses and parents. Whatever you agree to will have to be amended or completely changed later. Go slowly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a poor day to make travel plans or reservations. Similarly, don't make important decisions re publishing, the media or higher education. Just let things coast (just for today).

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a bad day for finances and dealing with insurance matters, estates and shared property. Don't make important decisions about these things. Avoid important banking transactions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a fun day to have good times with partners and close friends. However, it's a poor time for negotiations, signing contracts or entering into partnerships.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Expect delays and shortages at work today. Everything will move slowly and suffer from minor glitches. Aside from that, it's not a bad day. It's just not an efficient day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a wonderfully creative day for you! It's very easy for you to think out-of-the-box. You're full of original ideas. Elsewhere, avoid financial speculation today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't shop for items for your home or for family members. Wait until tomorrow. Whatever you initiate today will tend not to fulfill its purpose.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's easy to be trapped by fuzzy thinking today. It's not as bad as yesterday, but it's still there. Don't make important deals with anyone. Promise nothing. Wait until tomorrow.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				18						19				
20			■	21			■	■	22					
23			24		■	25	26	27	■	28				
29				■	30				31	■	■	32		
33				34		■	35			36	37	■	■	■
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■	■	■	42					■	43					44
45	46	47	■	■	48			49		■	50			
51			52	53	■	54			■	55				
56					57	■	■	58	59		■	60		
61						62	63				64			
65				■	66					■	67			
68				■	69					■	70			

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

10/19/05

ACROSS
1 Rolaids rival
5 Swiftly
10 Hide away
14 Name's 1st letter
15 "__ Doone"
16 Rubik's __
17 Recall of judges?
20 Charged particle
21 Supernatural being
22 Open shoe
23 "__ Gay"
25 Neighbor of Syr.
28 Macabre
29 Earth's crust layer
30 Tablelands
32 At least one
33 Deadly fly
35 Pirouette
38 Courtroom decorations?
42 Tag-player's call
43 Eagle quarters
45 Do lacework
48 Winter coasters
50 Inter-campus sports grp.
51 Carroll's girl
54 Fighting Tigers' sch.
55 Meaty
56 Fabric folds
58 Court railing
60 Cycle start?
61 Judge's pet peeve?
65 "A Death in the Family" author
66 Anchor position
67 __ Xiaoping
68 Beatty and Rorem
69 Tall tales
70 Grounded Air France fliers

DOWN
1 Most neat and orderly
2 Labor supporter
3 Application of a wrong name
4 RR stop
5 Rival rival
6 French dog
7 Onassis, to pals
8 Turner stn.
9 Beanery sign
10 Act component
11 Permafrost region
12 Get hold of
13 Actor Snipes
18 Tiger's org.
19 West of "My Little Chickadee"
24 "Little __ Lupe Lu"
26 Contents of wills
27 Cry out loud
30 Liquefies
31 Eliot's Marner
34 __ Tome and Principe
36 Shad delicacy
37 Michaels of "SNL"
39 Invoice
40 Fine points
41 Beach property
44 Maxims
45 NY's __ Zee Bridge
46 Assert without proof
47 Like some wedding cakes
49 "Ulysses" city
52 May and Ann, e.g.
53 Tours summer
55 Sister's sib
57 Don't go
59 Elec. units
62 Actress Hagen
63 Part of ETA
64 QB's quest

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	R	F	■	A	F	R	O	■	S	P	I	T
A	R	B	O	R	■	R	E	E	D	■	P	O	R	E
F	A	L	C	O	N	R	A	V	E	N	L	O	O	N
E	W	E	S	■	E	A	T	S	■	E	A	R	N	S
■	■	■	■	B	O	S	H	■	P	A	S	■	■	■
S	T	A	L	I	N	■	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
T	A	L	O	N	■	E	R	O	S	■	■	R	A	H
I	B	I	S	D	O	V	E	R	O	O	K	E	M	U
L	O	G	■	■	B	I	D	E	■	P	I	N	E	D
L	O	N	E	W	O	L	F	■	C	E	D	A	R	S
■	■	■	S	H	E	■	R	Y	A	N	■	■	■	■
C	R	E	P	E	■	B	I	A	S	■	A	S	I	A
R	O	B	I	N	W	R	E	N	T	H	R	U	S	H
A	L	O	E	■	H	A	N	K	■	A	G	I	L	E
M	E	N	D	■	O	D	D	S	■	T	O	T	E	M

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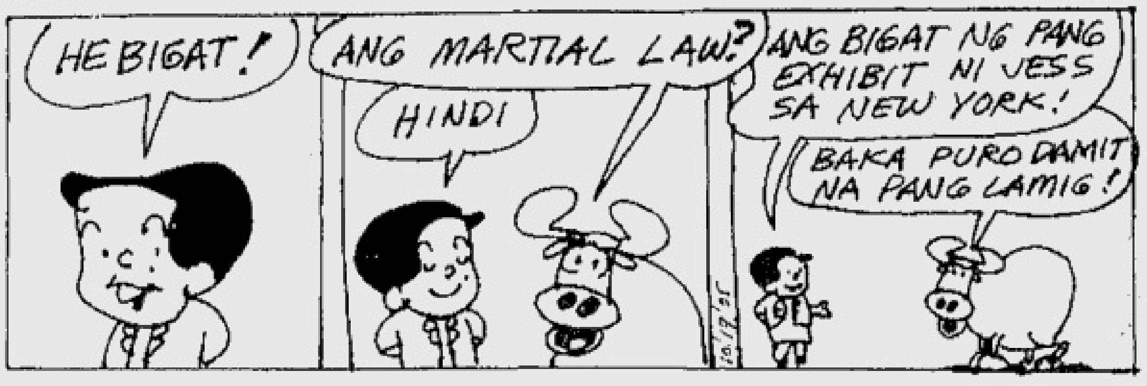
10/19/05

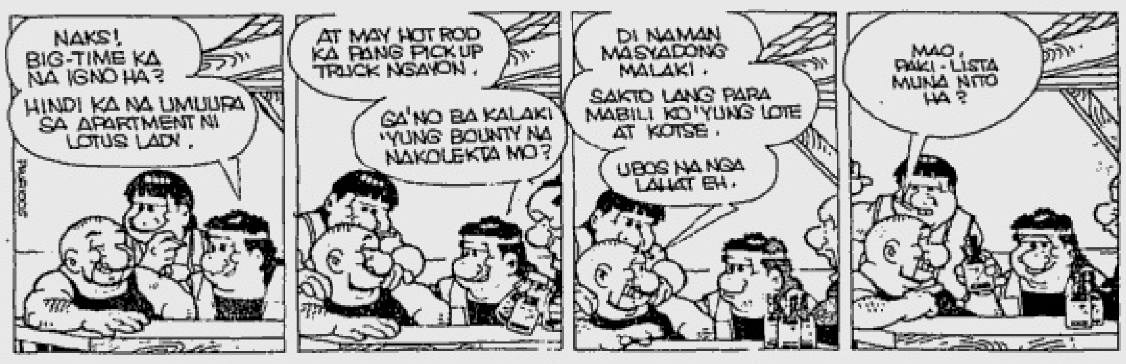
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HE BIGAT!
ANG MARTIAL LAW?
HINDI
ANG BIGAT NG PANG EXHIBIT NI JESS SA NEW YORK!
BAKA PURO DAMIT NA PANG LAMIG!
10.17.05

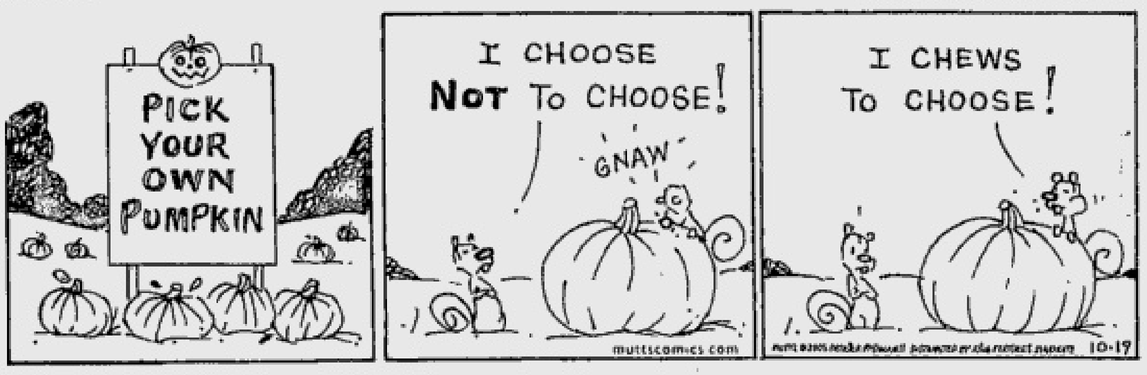
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKS! BIG-TIME KA NA IGNO HA?
HINDI KA NA UMUUPA SA APARTMENT NI LOTUS LADY.
AT MAY HOT ROD KA PANG PICK UP TRUCK NGAYON.
GA'NO BA KALAKI 'YUNG BOUNTY NA NAKOLEKTA MO?
DI NAMAN MASYADONG MALAKI.
SAKTO LANG PARA MABILI KO 'YUNG LOTE AT KOTSE.
UBOS NA NGA LAHAT EH.
MAO, PAKI-LISTA MUNA NITO HA?

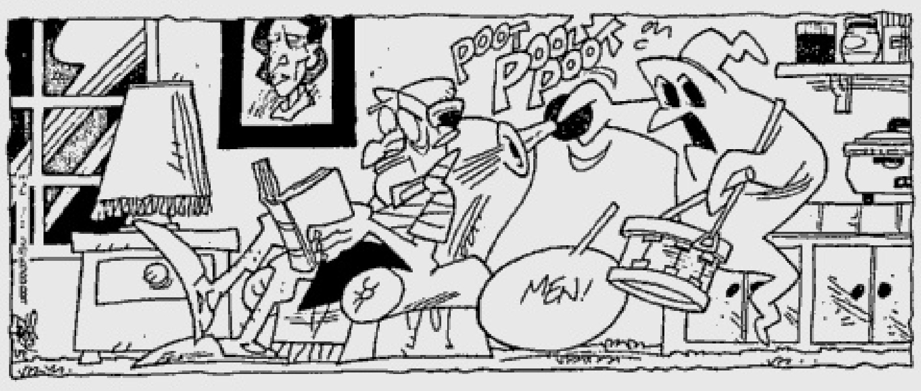
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PICK YOUR OWN PUMPKIN
I CHOOSE NOT TO CHOOSE!
GNAW
I CHEWS TO CHOOSE!
muttscomics.com
10-19

DIVINE COMEDY

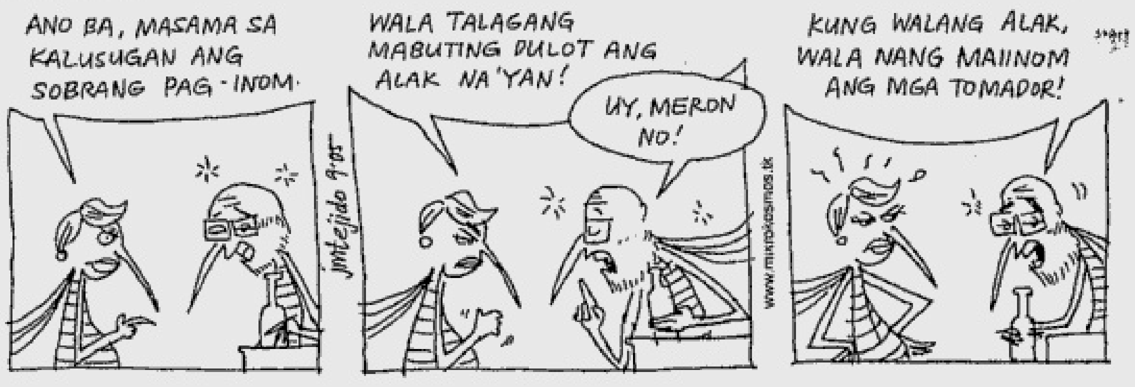
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


POOT POOT POOT
MEN!

KAHIT ILANG BESES NANG NAG-PARAMDAM ANG MULTO NG YUMAONG SI ALING BERTHA, HINDI PA RIN SYA NAPAPANSIN NG KANYANG ASAWA

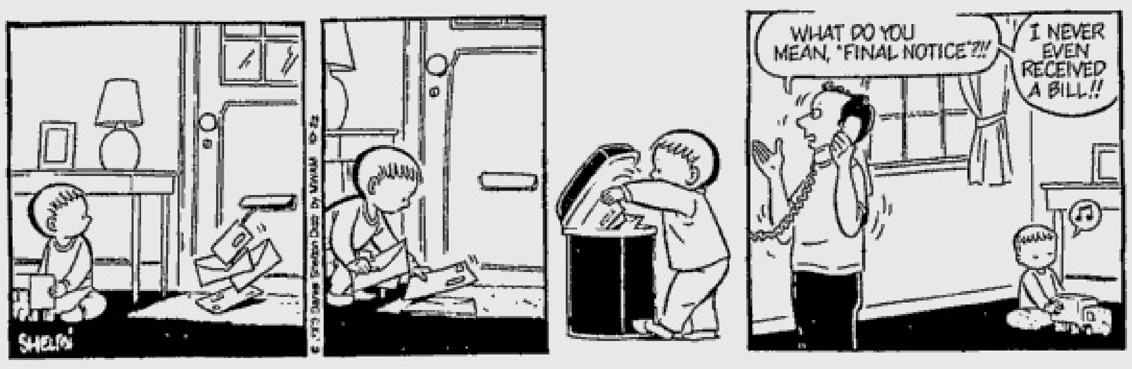
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO BA, MASAMA SA KALUSUGAN ANG SOBRANG PAG-INOM.
WALA TALAGANG MABUTING DULOT ANG ALAK NA 'YAN!
UY, MERON NO!
KUNG WALANG ALAK, WALA NANG MAIINOM ANG MGA TOMADOR!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

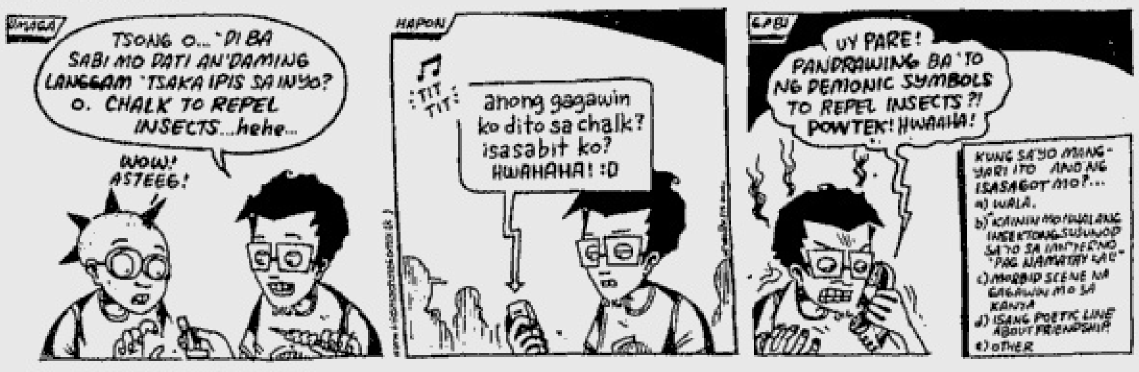
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FINAL NOTICE"?!!
I NEVER EVEN RECEIVED A BILL!!
SHELTON

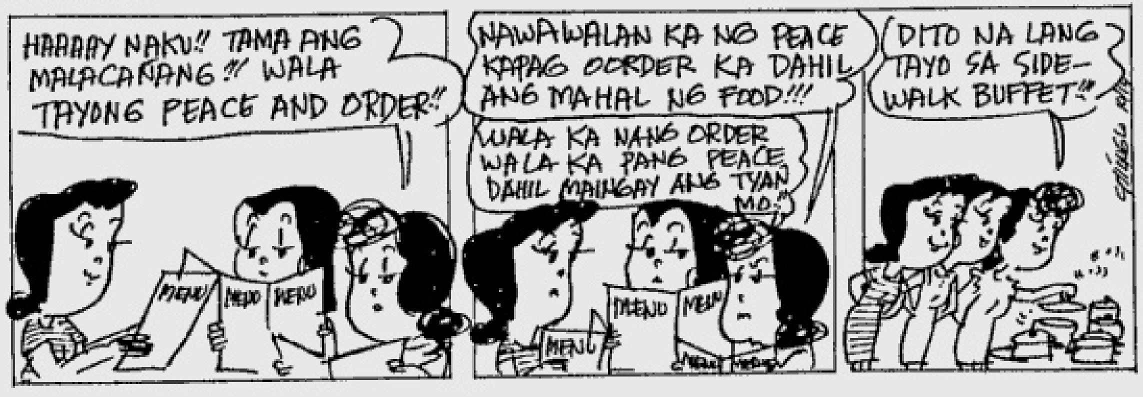
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UMAGA
TSONG O... 'DI BA SABI MO DATI AN'DAMING LANGGAM 'TSAKA IPIS SA INYO? O. CHALK TO REPEL INSECTS... hehe...
WOW! ASTEEG!
HAPON
TIT TIT
anong gagawin ko dito sa chalk? isasabit ko? HWAHAHA! :D
GABI
UY PARE! PANDRAWING BA 'TO NG DEMONIC SYMBOLS TO REPEL INSECTS?! POWTEK! HWAHA!
KUNG SA'YO MANGYARI ITO ANONG ISASAGOT MO?...
a) WALA.
d) ISANG POETIC LINE ABOUT FRIENDSHIP
e) OTHER

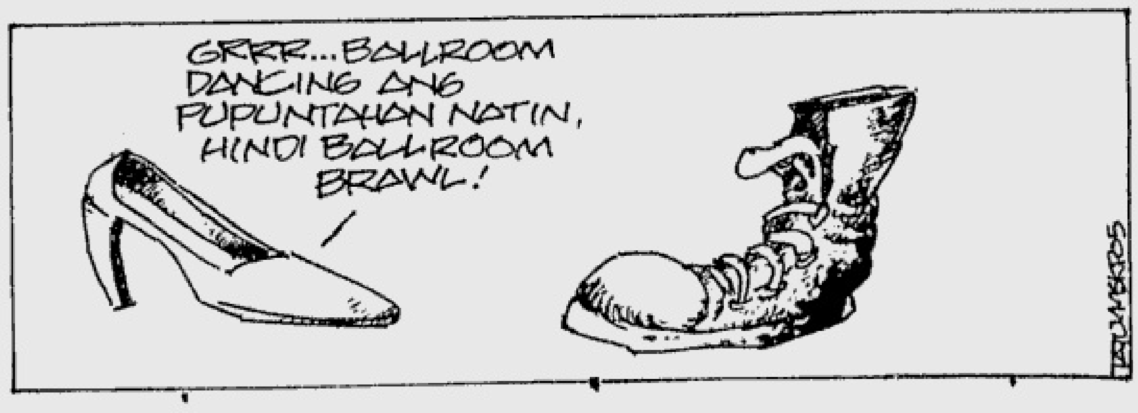
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HAAAAY NAKU!! TAMA ANG MALACAÑANG!!! WALA TAYONG PEACE AND ORDER!!
NAWAWALAN KA NG PEACE KAPAG OORDER KA DAHIL ANG MAHAL NG FOOD!!!
WALA KA NANG ORDER WALA KA PANG PEACE DAHIL MAINGAY ANG TYAN MO!!
DITO NA LANG TAYO SA SIDE-WALK BUFFET!!
MENU

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GRRR... BALLROOM DANCING ANG PUPUNTAHAN NATIN, HINDI BALLROOM BRAWL!
TATUM&PAPU

Barkada blowout!

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ocs Alvarez

ICY goodness with Maxx

MAGIC at the tip of your fingers

SUGAR baby

MOST STUDENTS SEE sem break as the time to leave the city for much-needed R&R. Unfortunately, not everyone has the resources to fly out of town to a deserted paradise, so many opt to spend their breaks hanging out in each other's houses, munching on chips and watching DVDs all day.

A BAG full of goodies

However, the junk food that you munch may just be your key to that deserted paradise. 2bU! and Jack 'n Jill are treating readers to their dream destination in the Philippines via Cebu Pacific.

All you have to do is e-mail a photo of your best *barkada* moment with Jack 'n Jill products. Attach a photo caption and a short essay on how Jack 'n Jill products have been a part of your *barkada*.

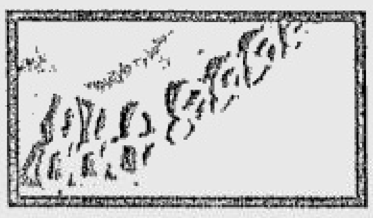
Products included in the promo are Chippy, Potato Chips, Taquitos, Spuds, Star Pops, Dynamite (melon and mint), Maxx Menthol Candy, Milky Knots, Berry Knots, X.O. Chocolate Shake Candy, and Magic Flakes.

Each entry should have the name of the sender, school/company address, age, e-mail address, contact number (landline and mobile) and the names of his/her friends included in the photo.

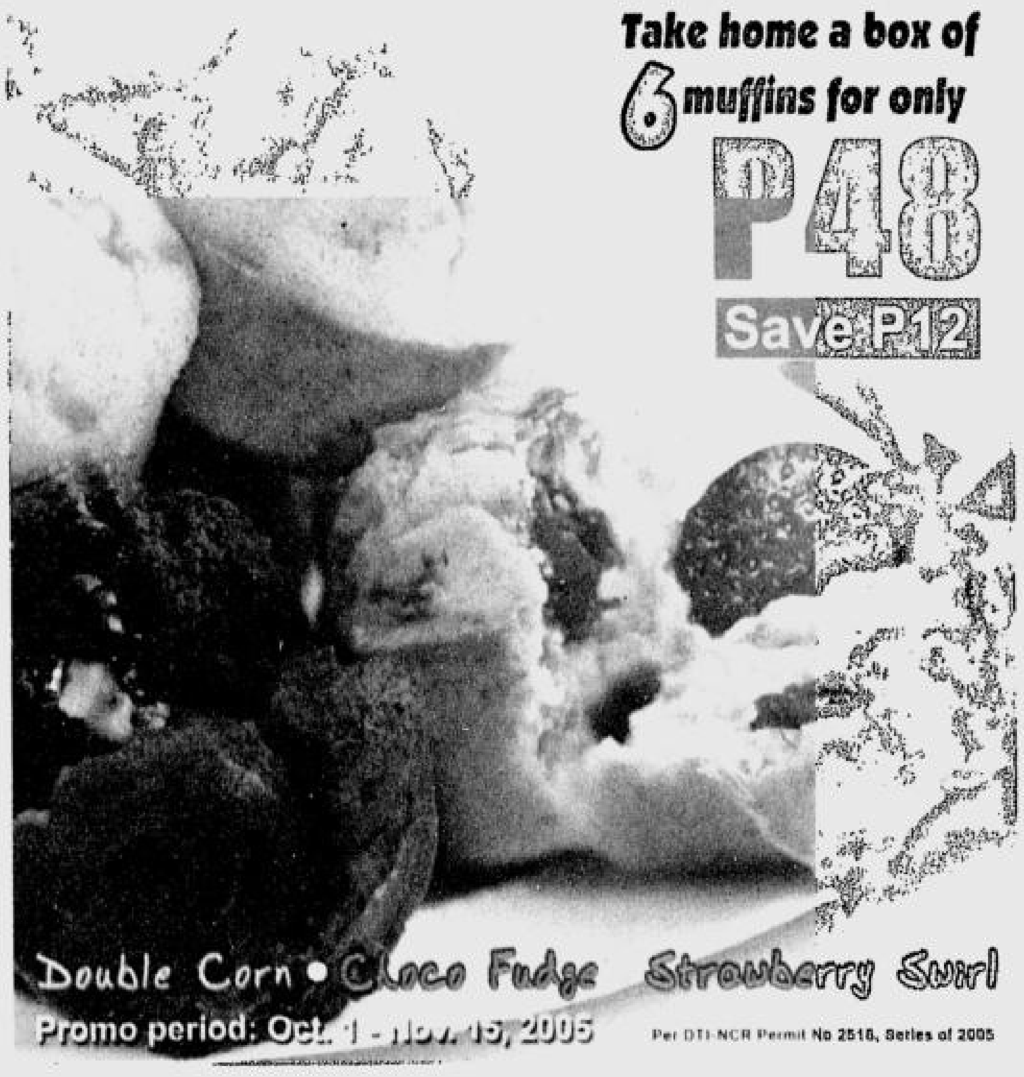
From Oct. 19 to Dec. 14, five weekly winners will receive Jack 'n Jill loot bags for his/her *barkada*. The sender of the best *barkada* photo will win round-trip tickets for the whole gang to any destination in the Philippines via Cebu Pacific. Two runners-up will receive T230 Sony Ericsson cell phones for four with P1,800 worth of Sure Load from Sun Cellular.

Don't just sit there and snack all day. Send in your photos now, you may just win a prize!

MAKEUP: TATIN YANG (09178382846)
MODELS: NASIA CAMMAYO, KAT VILLANUEVA, NIKKA AND CARLOS CONSUNJI



SEND us your creative shots to win.



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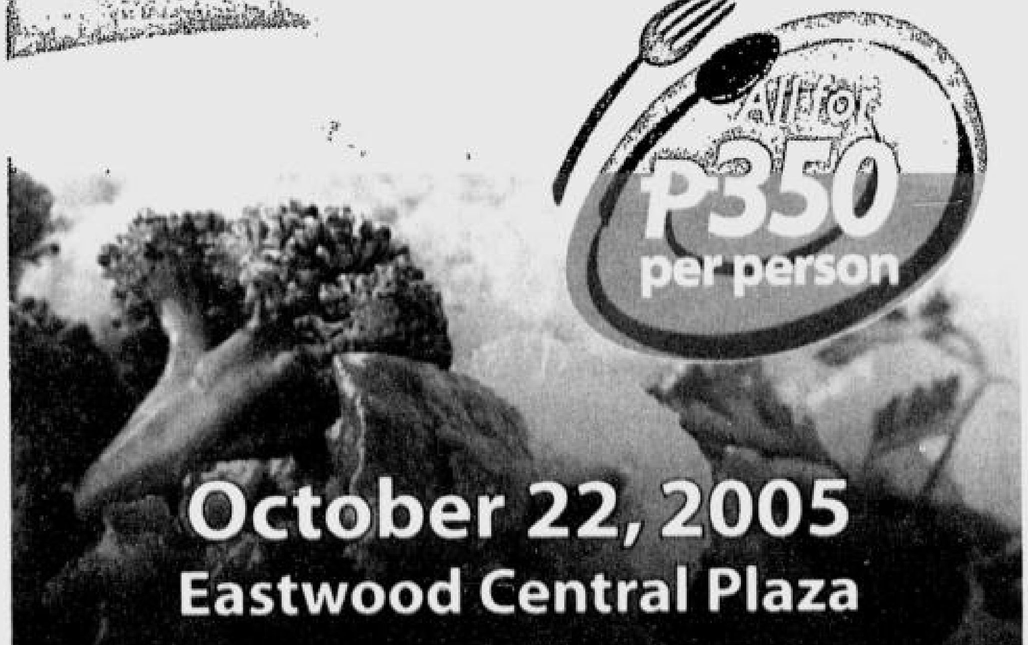

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Taking five with Maroon 5

From page D1

second full-length album.

They have recently ended their European tour and bagged the Best New Artist trophy at this year's Grammy's. All this from a band who once went by the name of Kara's Flowers.

2bU! recently had a casual little chat with über sexy frontman Adam Levine as the band wrapped up a series of phone interviews with other members of the Asian press. After a relentless string of events (drummer Ryan Dusick just had shoulder injury), the boys are now blissfully having the time of their lives doing, well, nothing. But don't fret—you haven't seen the last of them yet, and they've got more up their sleeve. Ladies and gents, hang on to your shorts.

Where are you guys right now?

Home, in LA. We're very happy to be here.

How's Ryan's shoulder?

It's better now. He's trying to heal himself and getting ready to play.

From the happy-go-grunge sound of Kara's Flowers to Maroon 5's blue-eyed pop funk, how has your music evolved?

We didn't really know what we were doing... We were experimenting with music, 'cause we were so young and in high school. We grew up, and we started involving people [in our musical process], and all of a sudden it kind of led to what it became. And we've started doing RnB and hip-hop as we got older.

You've worked with Kanye West and the Yin Yang Twins, so I guess you're adding a little more hip-hop flavor to your brand of rock, huh?

Yeah, I think so! I think it's always been a part of what we did, but I'm really happy that the people who are making the music we love are approaching us to do music with them... We've always wanted to collaborate with artists like Kanye, whose new record is incredible, and the Yin Yang Twins are doing fresh, real, interesting stuff in their record, and it's one of the best out there right now... So I'm really happy to have done some stuff with them. It's like stretching out a little bit, getting involved with other artists...

Since you write all of the songs, how do you get your creative juices flowing?

Yeah, I write a large part of the lyrics and melodies, and I collaborate with the band on all of the chord progressions and those types of things. Jesse (Carmichael, vocalist/guitarist/pianist) is amazing... He has this practical sensibility that he adds to it.

What's the song that's closest to your heart so far?

Probably "She Will Be Loved," 'cause when I wrote that song I felt a very special connection to it, like I immediately knew it was gonna be a big hit. It started to bring our band to a whole new level, so I'm very happy. When I first heard it, I had this incredible feeling.

How was it like filming the video with Kelly Preston?

It was awesome! She was our first choice... So we asked her and she said yes. It was great. I got to make out with an older woman... But I had to do it early in the morning and I had bad breath, so I had to eat a lot of breath mints. (Laughs)

Okaaay, that's charming. It's been quite a while since "Songs About Jane" came out. Fans are asking, what's taking so long?

I think we're just taking our time. We want it to be a real process, because all of a sudden we have more material for our new record, and it's good. We want it to be of high quality, 'cause otherwise the fans will be disappointed, right? We don't want to release crap.

MAROON 5's Adam Levine (vocals), Ryan Dusick (drums), James Valentine (guitar), Mickey Madden (bass), Jesse Carmichael (keyboards)

Can you give us a sneak preview? Like, tell us what's in store for us in the next album?

It's gonna sound more hyperactive, I think. A little bit crazier, definitely more stuff going on, and not as mid-tempo. A lot of hyper grooves... I'm not sure what it's gonna be, 'cause we still don't really know, I can't say for sure... but I know that it's gonna be good and fast and deep and hard. Very intense.

Cool. About your recent tours—you've opened for the Rolling Stones, right?

Yeah. We toured with the Stones, which was incredible—they're the best rock band ever. It's something you can't pass up.

Is it true you were pointedly snubbed by Oasis at Britain's V Festival? What's your reaction to that?

Yeah, we were. My reaction to that is, I don't really care about the people, I just really like their music, so if they don't like us, then they can just f--k off. I mean, I love their music, but they've always been kind of standoffish.

You've sworn off work this summer, and you've dubbed it the "Summer of Love." What did you guys do?

We loved. (Snickers) Jesse started that thing, right?

Yeah, I think so. I think Mickey (Madden, bassist) mentioned wanting to learn how to surf.

Mickey wants to learn how to surf? He's very clumsy, so I wish him luck. I don't know if he'll be able to do it.

So what's on your agenda?

Take a break, relax, stop talking about myself and think about other things, just kind of decompress a little bit, I guess... But I'm [also] gonna write music, hang out with my friends and live life. I've been earning and achieving and doing all this wonderful stuff, but I really kind of want to start being a normal person.

What was the weirdest thing a fan ever did?

Every time we go to Ohio, these girls would bring us vegan brownies. And I mean every time.

Sounds pretty, uh, appetizing.

No, they're actually pretty good. It's actually one of the homemade vegan products I endorse.

Now for the serious stuff. Aside from Kara and Jane, I hear you've dedicated a song to victims of hurricane Katrina.

Yes. It was a cover of the Beatles' "Don't Let Me Down," and it was for the American Red Cross benefit. That was actually amazing; we're really happy they wanted us to play a song that wasn't ours... We thought that song was kind of apropos to the benefit.

More and more artists are taking up noteworthy causes nowadays, whether political or humanitarian. So, what do you guys stand for?

Hmm... We have so many, I don't know if we can narrow it down to one. I know that we love working with children, and right now we're involved with one organization called Teen Impact (an LA-based program for adolescent cancer patients). It's so tragic and sad to see kids that are so young and so sick... We really had a wonderful time with them today, and we plan to do something more for them.

You guys are something of a pop icon for the youth. How can you help them be aware of the current global situation?

I think that we should just continue to be aware and intelligent, to think about what we say and say it in a way that they can understand. We can all be good role models, to be good people and not to be closed-minded in any way and to anything... To live our lives the way we feel most appropriate while helping people. It's hard to set an example that is worth following, but hopefully that's our goal.

I think many kids are responding to GITA (Get Informed, Take Action), that forum in your official website where Jesse posts at.

Yeah, Jesse's a big fan of that forum. (Laughs) I think it's getting people to be aware of what's happening in the world. It's not about, like, "I'm gonna tell you what to believe and what to think," just knowing the facts is very important.

And now, for the million-dollar question: When are you guys coming here?

Next year, next year. Be patient and we will come, I promise... at some point.

Okay. Last question: Will you marry me? Just kidding.

Of course! Let's do it.

Great. So I'll be waiting for you till next year, then.

Okay, perfect.

E-mail the bride-to-be at aoshi_no_miko@atenista.net.

Love the food, love the voice

Kitchie Nadal co-writes and sings McDonald's new 'Love Ko 'To' jingle

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

RECENTLY, MCDONALD'S Greenbelt was transformed from a busy fast-food joint into a hip and happening pocket concert venue as McDonald's—everyone's favorite fast-food chain—premiered to members of the media the latest "Love Ko 'To" jingle as performed by rock princess Kitchie Nadal.

With her impressive and insightful songwriting skills, plus a smashing debut album with hit songs such as "Same Ground" and "Wag Na Wag Mong Sasabihin," Kitchie is a great pick to voice the new McDonald's "Love Ko 'To" song, after "American idol" finalist Jasmine Trias.

The song's lyrics and melody may have changed, but the signature "Paparapapa, love *ko 'to*" line still remains.

Unlike Jasmine, Kitchie participated in the songwriting process, co-writing the lyrics with Ray Tiempo, the advertising agency senior copywriter who penned the original McDonald's "Love Ko 'To" jingle.

"They gave me the original song, I revised it and then I collaborated with McDonald's to give the song a new vibe," says Kitchie.

The new McDonald's "Love Ko 'To" song is all about Kitchie's emotional journey as a performer and her sources of inspiration: her fans and her faith. Its full-length version can now be heard in radio stations and in all 250 McDonald's outlets in the Philippines. It will also be included in Kitchie's follow-up to her self-titled debut album.

SHOWING the stuff that has made her today's Rock Princess

SOUTH Pacific

SPORT Mix

Casual, functional footwear

HUSH PUPPIES' SPRING/SUMMER 2006 collection showcases advanced comfort technology with fun, contemporary styling. The new designs will be launched via a fashion show on Oct. 23, 4 p.m., at the Atrium of Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

From the American shoe brand that invented casual comfort comes the practical Street Smart collection. The shoes have waterproof leather and construction, providing all-day comfort with the heel's energy-return gel pad and revolutionary Zero 0 technology. This results in a lightweight, flexible walking experience.

This technology is also present in Cool Sands sandals, along with the new Bounce feature that stores and releases energy to propel your stride forward at every step.

Hush Puppies also promises the ladies a colorful line-up of chic, sleek kitten heels and euro-cork wedges through the Trend Watch collection. The hot South Pacific leather and metallic sandals are the latest members of Hush Puppies' patent-pending Wave Reflex design.

A dynamic selection from Sport Mix completes the collection for men and women, with its sporty, casual designs.

Open to the public, the fashion show also celebrates the opening of the newest Hush Puppies store at Unit 592 Level 5 Shangri-La Plaza Shaw Blvd. corner EDSA Mandaluyong City, 1550.

Hush Puppies is a division of Wolverine World Wide, the world's leading maker of casual, work, and outdoor footwear. Hush Puppies is headquartered in Rockford, Michigan, and is distributed in the Philippines by Shoemaker's Shop Inc.